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Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session

United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General hereby transmits to the General Assembly the report of the Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research on the activities of the Institute for the period from January to December 2014 and the programme of work and financial plan for 2015 and 2016.

The report was considered and approved for submission to the General Assembly by the Board of Trustees of the Institute at the sixty-fourth session of the Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters, held in New York from 29 June to 1 July 2015. The Board of Trustees emphasized the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Director, in particular those in paragraphs 23 to 30 regarding Member States' next steps to ensure the Institute's sustainability. In addition to making a request for an increased subvention for the biennium 2016-2017, the Board called for its recommendations regarding the subvention to be fully reflected in the note by the Secretary-General requesting a subvention to the Institute, which will be submitted to the Assembly at its seventieth session.

* A/70/150.

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Report of the Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research on the activities of the Institute for the period from January to December 2014 and the programme of work and financial plan for 2015 and 2016

Summary

The present report covers the activities and financial status of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) during the period from January to December 2014, the ongoing programme of work and financial plan for 2015 and the proposed programme of work and financial plan for 2016. On the occasion of the thirty-fifth anniversary of the Institute, the present report also offers a stocktaking for the consideration of Member States as they discuss the continuing need for and value of the Institute and the steps forward.

UNIDIR generates and leverages knowledge to improve disarmament and security policies, programmes and practices. The work of UNIDIR is divided into four research programmes: weapons of mass destruction, conventional weapons, emerging security issues, and security and society.

The year 2015 marks the Institute's thirty-fifth anniversary. At a time when the multilateral disarmament machinery struggles to deliver results, UNIDIR continues to fulfil its mandate in the service of Member States, filling a critical niche of fact-based analysis, fresh ideas on emerging issues and new perspectives.

The year offers an opportunity for Member States not only to reflect on the Institute's contributions, accomplishments and value added but also to ensure that, as the Institute embarks on the next 35 years, it will have a more secure, resilient and sustainable foundation for its work. In 2012-2013, in response to the proposal to merge the research and training functions of the United Nations, Member States expressed their strong political will in support of the Institute's continued autonomy. Without a secure institutional base, however, that hard-fought achievement is an illusion.

The Director notes that the Institute's projects and activities budget has continued on an upward trend, reflecting demand by Member States for the Institute's products and activities, yet funding to support the obligatory framework to undertake those activities in compliance with both United Nations rules and donor requirements is far from sufficient and shrinks each year.

The General Assembly, in its resolution 68/247, approved a subvention of $577,800 to UNIDIR for the biennium 2014-2015. The Director notes that the subvention from the regular budget, foreseen in resolution 39/148 H towards meeting the costs of the Director and the staff of the Institute, no longer covers the standard costs of a Director. In its resolutions 60/89 and 65/78, the Assembly recommended that the Secretary-General implement the relevant recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services and the decisions of the Board of Trustees on the funding of the Institute, within existing resources.

In recent years, Member States have resoundingly expressed their strong political will in support of the Institute's continued autonomy and unique governance structure. It is now time for Member States to take ownership of the Institute's future, to ensure that UNIDIR can build upon its first 35 years and continue to serve all States as the thought leader of the United Nations system on disarmament and related international security questions.

I. Background

1. The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) generates and leverages knowledge to improve disarmament and security policies, programmes and practices.

2. The present report covers the activities and financial status of UNIDIR during the period from January to December 2014, the ongoing programme of work and financial plan for 2015 and the proposed programme of work and financial plan for 2016. It is the first report presented under the leadership of the new Director, who assumed his functions in January 2015. On the occasion of the thirty-fifth anniversary of the Institute, the present report also offers a stocktaking for the consideration of Member States as they discuss the continuing need for and value of the Institute and the steps forward.

II. Reflecting on 35 years: a stocktaking

3. The year 2015 marks the Institute's thirty-fifth anniversary.[1] Over the past 35 years, the Institute has built a reputation for innovation and problem-solving. At a time when the multilateral disarmament machinery struggles to deliver results, UNIDIR continues to fulfil its mandate in the service of Member States, filling a critical niche with fact-based analysis, fresh ideas on emerging issues and new perspectives.

4. According to its mandate, the Institute is to provide the international community with more diversified and complete analysis of disarmament and security issues; promote informed participation by all States in disarmament efforts; produce objective and factual studies and analyses; and carry out more in-depth, forward-looking and long-term research on disarmament and security.

5. UNIDIR is ideally situated to deliver on this mandate owing to its unique placement within the international community, as an autonomous institute within the United Nations offering research and policy support and solutions to Member States, United Nations bodies and international and regional organizations, among others. Moreover, recent experience demonstrates that Member States continue to value the Institute: the services that it provides to the diplomatic, policy and practitioner communities are in demand more than ever before. There continues to be a high level of support for and interest in the Institute's projects, and UNIDIR has been able to steadily raise funding for specific projects and activities.

6. The Institute's unique position within the United Nations is reinforced by a number of key strengths, starting with its wide mandate. Its programme of work is broad in substance yet practical in nature, covering current and over-the-horizon issues. Unlike many organizations producing analysis, UNIDIR is not an advocacy organization; nor is it limited to a specific region or a single issue area.

7. Another strength is the cross-cutting nature of the Institute's work, both in substance and in its approach to stakeholders. Recent research questions addressed by UNIDIR, not confined to particular weapon-specific portfolios, include: How are

[1] The Institute was established in 1980 (see resolution 35/152 H), and its statute was approved by the General Assembly in 1984 (see resolution 39/148 H).

norms of behaviour in outer space relevant to the quest to develop norms for cyberspace? How does the international community's understanding of so-called "normal accidents" inform the assessment of nuclear-related risks? How might increasingly autonomous technologies intersect with offensive or defensive cybercapabilities, and is it possible to mitigate risks and vulnerabilities?

8. In its cross-cutting approach to stakeholders, UNIDIR actively seeks to strengthen collaboration between the disarmament community and other communities of practice, including development, health and human rights. UNIDIR creates strategic partnerships and promotes useful collaboration among a variety of stakeholders that are not always brought together in traditional disarmament forums or considered equals at the table.

9. UNIDIR also cuts across the "inside-outside" divide of the United Nations. Its autonomy gives it great liberty to consider questions that other parts of the system might be hesitant to confront, combined with insider access to United Nations processes. No other disarmament think tank in the world is in the same position. UNIDIR serves the much-needed bridging function of ensuring that there is cross-fertilization of ideas from inside and outside the system. UNIDIR has also demonstrated its ability to work cooperatively with a whole range of other United Nations entities, being seen as a non-threatening partner for effective joint efforts.

10. As the only United Nations institute dedicated to disarmament and security issues, and with a global reputation, networks and access afforded by being part of the United Nations, UNIDIR has unique convening power. Its activities command particular attention in the international community.

11. UNIDIR leverages that convening power in several ways, notably through:

(a) International conferences and workshops, such as the annual UNIDIR Space Security Conference;

(b) Regional meeting series on specific topics or treaties, such as the Arms Trade Treaty, an international code of conduct for outer space activities, and international law and State behaviour in cyberspace;

(c) Small expert group discussions, such as a cross-disciplinary group of experts and scholars on the weaponization of increasingly autonomous technologies, or behind-the-scenes meetings, for example on strategies for breaking the deadlock in the Conference on Disarmament, to help to incubate ideas, foster collaboration and identify strategies for progress;

(d) Inter-agency efforts, such as supporting the Federal Government of Somalia and United Nations partners in order to design and establish effective arms and ammunition management frameworks.

12. UNIDIR has been at the forefront of strategic efforts to forge shared understanding that informs, legitimizes and motivates collective action, particularly on new issues. From outer space security in the early 1980s to small arms and light weapons in the early 1990s and cybersecurity in the late 1990s, UNIDIR has made fundamental contributions to shaping how issues are framed and addressed by the disarmament and security communities. Examples include:

(a) Enhancing civilian protection from explosive weapons use in populated areas: along with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the

Secretariat and the British policy non-governmental organization Article 36, UNIDIR helped to frame this emergent policy approach from its inception around 2009, creating understanding and traction within the United Nations system and with interested organizations and States;

(b) Humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons: UNIDIR conducted foundational work on examining contemporary developments in the discourse around nuclear disarmament and helping policy practitioners to make sense of it;

(c) Cyberstability: from its initial work on cybersecurity over a decade ago, UNIDIR is now fostering the development of regional communities of cyberpolicy legal practitioners.

13. Finally, UNIDIR is practical and effective. It is a small institute with a global impact. UNIDIR conducts research to better understand phenomena, identify alternatives, assess which courses of action are effective and why, and ultimately create better outcomes. UNIDIR does not conduct theoretical research, but rather practical, evidence-based and policy-relevant research with the objective of leveraging knowledge for action. To put it simply, the Institute diagnoses a problem, designs a response and delivers a result.

A. Key challenges: ensuring a resilient and sustainable Institute and transitioning to Umoja

14. The Institute's thirty-fifth anniversary offers an opportunity for Member States not only to reflect on the Institute's contributions, accomplishments and value added but also to ensure that, as the Institute embarks on the next 35 years, it will have a more secure, resilient and sustainable foundation for its work.

15. Voluntary contributions constitute the principal source of financing of the Institute. Its annual budget has two components: the projects and activities budget and the institutional operations budget.

16. The projects and activities budget comprises funding raised from Governments, foundations and international organizations and earmarked for specific activities and projects on the basis of a detailed proposal and budget prepared by UNIDIR. High standards of work and cost-effectiveness are ensured and reinforced by the competitive nature of the market for project funding.

17. The institutional operations budget supports the Institute as a whole, ensuring the Institute's strategic direction, financial and administrative transactions, management and oversight, reporting, communications and outreach. It covers the institutional framework necessary to carry out activities in compliance with United Nations financial and administrative rules and regulations, as well as in accordance with contribution agreements. The majority of the annual budget covers the costs of the Director (D-2) and four other institutional staff: the Chief of Operations (P-5), a Budget and Finance Officer (P-3), an Administrative Assistant (G-6) and a

Publications and Meetings Secretary (G-5).[2] In addition to those staff costs, the institutional operations budget includes a minimum travel budget for the Director, physical infrastructure, website maintenance, development and dissemination of outreach tools and materials, and information technology support and communications (see annex III).

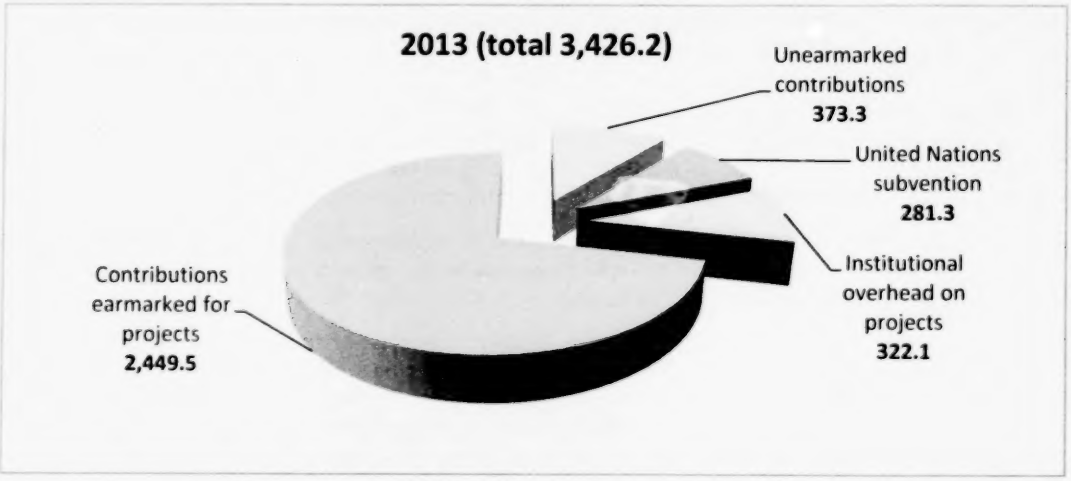
18. When establishing a new extrabudgetary body, a single stakeholder Government or group of Governments usually provides an endowment or a working capital fund for the institutional operations budget of the new entity. Unfortunately, UNIDIR has never benefited from either. Instead, its institutional operations budget comes from three sources: unearmarked contributions, overheads on each project budget and the subvention. The institutional operations budget is chronically underfunded.

19. Figure I illustrates funding trends related to support for the two budgets.

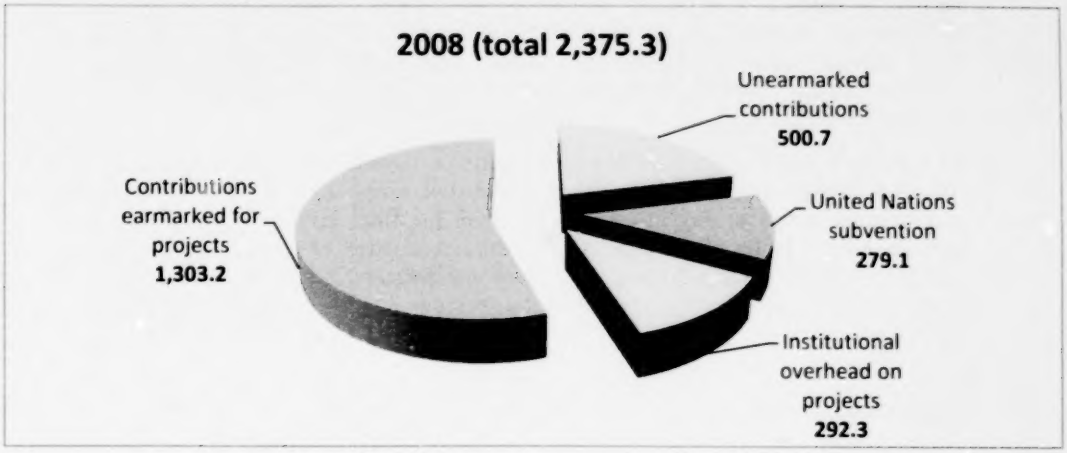
Figure I

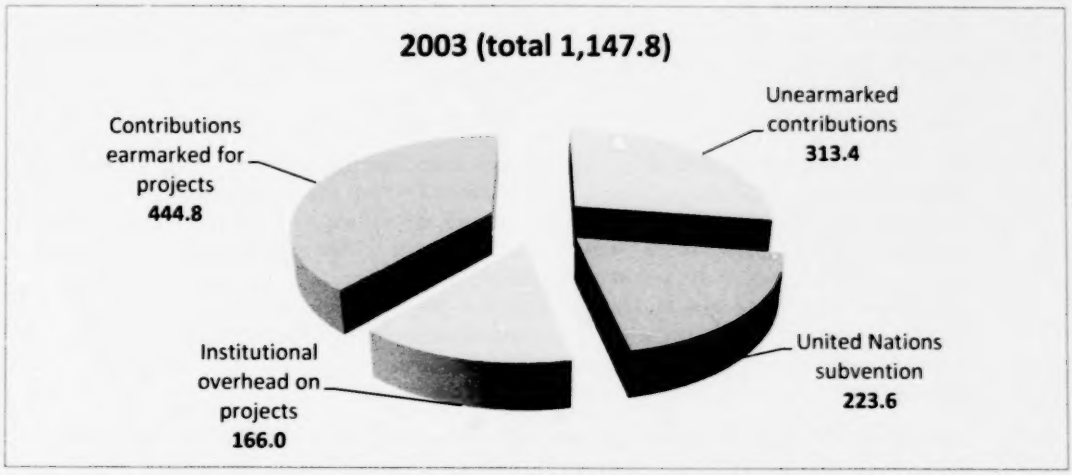
Project and activities (earmarked) income and institutional operations (unearmarked) income

(Thousands of United States dollars)



[2] At its sixty-third session, following an external needs assessment, the Board of Trustees endorsed the recommendation that the Institute staff be expanded to include a Chief of Research (P-5); however, such a position has yet to be established for financial reasons. Upon the incumbent's retirement, the functions carried out by the G-6 will be redistributed, and the G-6 position will be discontinued. At that time, with the addition of the P-5 Chief of Research position, the Institute will reach its irreducible core of five institutional staff.


2008 (total 2,375.3)
Unearmarked contributions 500.7
United Nations subvention 279.1
Institutional overhead on projects 292.3
Contributions earmarked for projects 1,303.2


2003 (total 1,147.8)
Unearmarked contributions 313.4
United Nations subvention 223.6
Institutional overhead on projects 166.0
Contributions earmarked for projects 444.8

Note: Subvention amounts are granted for the biennium. For the illustrative purposes of these charts, the total biennium subvention was divided in half.

20. It is paradoxical that the UNIDIR projects and activities budget has continued on an upward trend, reflecting demand by Member States for the Institute's products and activities, yet funding to support the obligatory framework to undertake such activities in compliance with both United Nations rules and donor requirements is far from sufficient and shrinks each year. At the current level of the institutional operations budget's funding, it is no longer possible to maintain the minimum framework required to have a United Nations institute.

21. The new United Nations enterprise resource planning programme, Umoja, will affect UNIDIR as of 1 November 2015 and poses two distinct challenges to UNIDIR. First, a different contractual modality will need to be found to continue to employ staff (both institutional and research) beyond October, as the current arrangement is not supported by the new system. The two institutional staff currently not on United Nations fixed-term contracts will need to be converted to

permit the full access to Umoja required by their duties. This will have some cost implications. As for research staff, the Institute is actively working with the Secretariat to find an appropriate contractual modality that will suit the particular characteristics of research work, the realities of the funding environment and the Institute's business model.

22. Second, the transition to Umoja requires a significantly higher amount of financial liquidity than UNIDIR has ever had. For example, it is not unusual for project contributors to pay in instalments, with the final instalment being issued only upon completion of the project. With the introduction of Umoja, projects and activities will be able to borrow only from unearmarked funds. As unearmarked funds are a key source of the institutional operations budget, and as that is already in shortfall, there is simply insufficient liquidity.

B. Next steps for Member States

23. After 35 years of effective service delivery, Member States are facing a collective decision about the Institute's future. In 2012-2013, in response to the Secretariat's proposal to merge the research and training functions of the United Nations, Member States expressed their strong political will in support of the Institute's continued autonomy and its unique governance structure. Without a secure institutional base, however, that hard-fought achievement is an illusion.

24. It is well documented that UNIDIR has faced an unstable and insufficient institutional funding base since its establishment.[3] Over the years, the General Assembly, the Board of Trustees of UNIDIR and the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), among others, have called attention to the situation and to the need for a larger portion of the UNIDIR institutional staff costs to be covered by the subvention from the regular budget. What makes 2015 different is that, with Umoja and the donor shift towards almost exclusively earmarked project funding, the chronic underfunding of the institutional operations budget can no longer be ignored.

25. There are two solutions to put the institutional operations budget on a more stable and sustainable basis: increased annual voluntary contributions to the institutional operations budget and a larger subvention.[4] In the past three years, fewer than 20 States have contributed to the institutional operations budget, namely Finland, the Holy See, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, Kazakhstan,

[3] See, for example, A/38/467, A/40/744, A/41/666, A/42/611, A/45/498, A/48/325, A/50/391, A/55/349, A/56/418, A/57/335, A/58/316, A/59/361, A/60/285, A/61/297, A/63/279, A/65/228, A/66/125, A/67/203, A/68/206 and A/69/208.

[4] The third source of institutional operations budget funding, project overheads, is not discussed in the present report, as funders have made it clear that they are unwilling or unable to pay a higher overhead percentage. While each UNIDIR project budget includes an overhead percentage that goes to the institutional operations budget, it also includes the programme support cost charged by the United Nations Office at Geneva on all UNIDIR expenditure. Funders thus feel that they are being charged overhead twice and that the overall overhead percentage (United Nations Office at Geneva plus UNIDIR) is relatively high. Were a greater portion of the institutional operations budget to be funded from the subvention and unearmarked contributions, the percentage of project overhead charged by UNIDIR on individual activities could be reduced, thereby making the projects more affordable and attractive to funders.

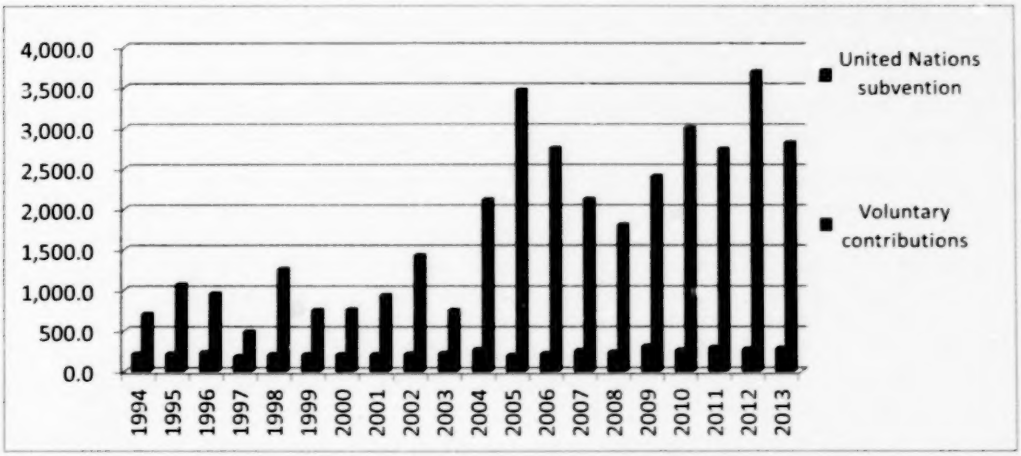
Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Norway, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates.

26. With the introduction of Umoja, the institutional operations budget for 2016 is $1.3 million. In 2014, unearmarked contributions from States totalled $475,000. If Member States want to continue to have a dedicated institute for disarmament and security analysis within the United Nations, an institute that works to support all Member States, more States will need to contribute unearmarked funding and to commit to doing so every year. Rather than developing concepts and securing financing for substantive projects and activities, the Director and institutional staff spend a disproportionate amount of time attempting to secure funds for operational costs.

27. A higher subvention is an essential component of a sustainable, longer-term solution. Member States foresaw the need for regular budget support towards the cost of the Director and institutional staff and made a provision for it in the UNIDIR statute. However, for a number of budget cycles, the subvention was not cost adjusted, which resulted in its significantly reduced purchasing power today.

Figure II
UNIDIR annual voluntary income vis-à-vis the subvention

(Thousands of United States dollars)



28. In its resolution 65/87, on the Institute's thirtieth anniversary, the General Assembly recommended the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Trustees, including over a decade of recommendations that the costs of institutional staff be funded from the regular budget. In 2004, the Secretary-General considered the continuing need for a subvention to UNIDIR and concluded that the regular budget subvention was "vital for ensuring the independent and continuous nature of the Institute's normal functioning". There have been other such recommendations, including by an OIOS audit report in 2005 recommending that UNIDIR, with the support of its Board, seek enhanced financial support from the regular budget. The resolution on the thirty-fifth anniversary of UNIDIR, to be considered at the seventieth session of the General Assembly, provides a critical

opportunity to support a larger subvention. However, this must be followed by Fifth Committee action if it is to have any impact.

29. To address the liquidity issue, UNIDIR established in January 2015 a revolving capital fund ("Stability Fund"). The Fund has a goal of $1 million, which would ensure sufficient liquidity for continued operations. The Fund will serve as a reserve against which funding can be borrowed; since it is always replenished, it is never spent down. Unlike the institutional operations budget, which needs to be raised every year, contributing to the Fund is a one-time investment. Australia ($100,000) and Switzerland ($60,000) were the first contributors to the Fund.

30. UNIDIR is actively working with the Secretariat to help to overcome the challenges raised by the transition to Umoja. Those efforts alone, however, are not enough. It is the Member States that established the Institute and have clearly affirmed the value of and continuing need for the Institute's products and services. They must therefore take ownership of the Institute's future and commit to the Institute's sustainability. The alternative is to acknowledge that UNIDIR will cease its substantive operations until such operational stability is secured.

III. Programme of work

A. Performance information[5] and status of completed or planned activities for 2015

31. The work of UNIDIR is divided into four research programmes:[6] weapons of mass destruction, conventional weapons, emerging security issues, and security and society.

32. Throughout its history, UNIDIR has been at the forefront of many issues on the disarmament agenda. The Institute has been an innovator and leader on issues as diverse as space security, cyberstability, small arms, disarmament as humanitarian action and autonomous weapons. On those and other issues, UNIDIR today is more relevant than ever. Over the years, UNIDIR has also demonstrated its ability to change and adapt to Member States' needs and requests: today, in addition to traditional written outputs, the Institute develops tools and offers capacity-building activities so that all States may participate fully in disarmament and security discussions and commitments.

33. In 2014, UNIDIR conducted 16 individual projects, held 23 conferences and seminars and issued 17 publications. UNIDIR staff also participated in numerous international conferences and events held by or in cooperation with partner organizations. During the period covered by the present report, UNIDIR staff made presentations worldwide at events in Vienna, Beijing, Tokyo, The Hague, Johannesburg, Stockholm and Bangkok, among others.

[5] Based on actual accomplishments for the period from January to December 2014.

[6] In order to streamline the work of the Institute and increase clarity of the Institute's programme of work, as from 2014 the activities within the policy and practice research programme have been absorbed into the four other programmes.

34. While individual projects and activities conducted during the reporting period are listed in the present document in brief, detailed information about specific projects and outputs is available from the UNIDIR website (www.unidir.org).

1. Weapons of mass destruction

35. The statute of UNIDIR gives high priority to work aimed at the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons. At a time when progress towards nuclear disarmament has stalled and the role of nuclear weapons in national security doctrines remains huge, there is a continued need for UNIDIR activities in support of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in all their aspects.

(a) Promoting the implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

36. On 24 April 2014, UNIDIR held an event entitled "Practical steps towards nuclear disarmament" in partnership with the International Panel on Fissile Materials. In addition, UNIDIR actively participated in various track II meetings on the project of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. UNIDIR also co-convened with the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations a panel discussion on this topic at the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

(b) Humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons (phase II)

37. In phase II of the project, UNIDIR, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, conducted a study considering the challenges for the humanitarian system in the face of a range of plausible, illustrative nuclear weapon detonation scenarios. The study identified specific issues that warrant further policy and operational attention in order to enhance civilian protection from nuclear weapons. [August 2013-August 2014]

(c) Humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons (phase III)

38. Phase III produced 11 background papers for the Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons and the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Panel discussions were held at side events at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly and the Review Conference. UNIDIR also collaborated with the International Law and Policy Institute to jointly publish comments on topical nuclear disarmament issues on the web page "Effective measures for nuclear disarmament" (http://unidir.ilpi.org). [September 2014-June 2015]

(d) Support for the Group of Governmental Experts on possible aspects that could contribute to but not negotiate a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons

39. UNIDIR was selected as consultant to the Group of Governmental Experts established by the Secretary-General pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/53. UNIDIR participated in the four 2-week sessions of the Group in 2014 and 2015 and

provided background papers and advice as requested by the Chair. [March 2014-April 2015]

(e) Other activities

40. UNIDIR has continued to co-host various weapons of mass destruction-related events. They include a seminar organized on 30 March 2015 on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction together with the Geneva Centre for Security Policy and the Graduate Institute of International and Developmental Studies; and a workshop organized in February 2015 in support of the International Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation together with Fondation pour la Recherche Stratégique. At the request of the Director-General, UNIDIR chaired all panels of the informal civil society forum on the Conference on Disarmament held on 19 March.

2. Conventional weapons

41. The focus of the UNIDIR conventional weapons programme is on supporting the implementation disarmament instruments and commitments on the ground by developing targeted tools, offering capacity-building, and designing improved processes and better methods of stakeholder cooperation and collaboration.

(a) Supporting the use of the International Small Arms Control Standards (phase II)

42. UNIDIR developed a software tool, the International Small Arms Control Standards Assessment Tool, designed to facilitate the use of the Standards and, in particular, to allow practitioners and policymakers to assess how their policies, programmes and practices on small arms control align with international standards. Phase II of the project focused on validation, testing in 10 countries and the launch of the software. [January 2013-January 2014]

(b) Weapons and ammunition management in Somalia

43. The project comprised a technical workshop and an assessment of weapons and ammunition management in Somalia. The workshop highlighted weapons and ammunition management requirements in the light of Security Council resolution 2093 (2013) and, subsequently, resolution 2142 (2014), reviewed the scope of ongoing activities and practices and identified potential capacity-building needs. The UNIDIR report entitled "Weapons and ammunition management in Somalia" was used by the Federal Government of Somalia to report to the Council on the arms embargo. [December 2013-March 2014]

(c) Supporting the use of the International Small Arms Control Standards (phase III)

44. The third phase of the project (see para. 42) included a series of five regional capacity-building train-the-trainer workshops. A suite of training materials developed by UNIDIR is available for download free of charge from www.smallarmsstandards.org. [January 2014-January 2015]

(d) Arms and ammunition management in conflict, post-conflict and arms embargo settings

45. A series of workshops designed to provide technical guidance on the process of reviewing national frameworks on small arms and light weapons in Somalia, the project will help to establish capacity among relevant Government and United Nations entities, in particular the Arms and Ammunition Steering Committee, established in 2014, to review, assess and consider the development of appropriate legal frameworks, policies and procedures dealing with the full management cycle of weapons and ammunition. [May 2015-April 2017]

(e) Examining models for the harmonization of end use/r documentation and control systems

46. The project examines options and models for harmonizing end use/r control systems in order to strengthen measures against arms diversion. The project will assist States in effective and practical implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty. [January-December 2015]

(f) International Small Arms and Ammunition Technical Guidelines platform

47. The project builds upon the International Small Arms Control Standards Assessment Tool (see paras. 42 and 44). The first phase of the project entails the development of a prototype of the platform and field testing it. The project will improve the accessibility and applicability of control measures that apply to both small arms and their ammunition in order to enhance the capacity of field practitioners tasked with supporting arms and ammunition management in conflict and post-conflict settings. [February-December 2015]

(g) Promoting a coordinated and effective international approach to improvised explosive devices

48. The project considers how the international community might approach and address improvised explosive devices in a more coordinated and effective manner. [June 2015-February 2016]

3. Emerging security issues

49. The UNIDIR programme on emerging security issues creates solutions to the challenges and security risks that arise in rapidly changing or emerging sectors. Those sectors include atypical domains that cut across traditional boundaries, as well as those categories of technology that are of increasing interest to the international security community.

(a) Facilitating the process of developing an international code of conduct for outer space activities

50. With the support of the European Union, UNIDIR built international understanding on norms of behaviour in outer space activities through a series of regional meetings, background papers, expert consultations and support activities. [June 2012-August 2014]

(b) Cyber Index tool

51. A research and development feasibility study building on the 2013 UNIDIR project "Cyber Index: international security trends and realities", it developed the conceptual direction for turning the paper on Cyber Index into an online cyberpolicy tool. The document outlining the prototype is entitled "Towards cyberstability: a user-centred tool for policymakers". [January-September 2014]

(c) Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security

52. UNIDIR was again selected as consultant to the Group of Governmental Experts for its work in 2014 and 2015. The final meeting of the Group was held in June 2015. [July 2014-June 2015]

(d) Cross-cutting nature of space security

53. UNIDIR organized a panel, hosted by the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to the United Nations, in October 2014 to discuss current United Nations initiatives and the importance of a holistic approach to developing a resilient space security regime.

(e) International law and State behaviour in cyberspace

54. The project focuses on raising awareness and encouraging dialogue at the regional level with regard to the various interpretations of the applicability of international law in cyberspace. Regional workshops have been held in Nairobi, Muscat and Seoul. [October 2014-June 2015]

(f) Realities of middle Power space reliance

55. A study examining the reliance of middle Powers on space resources in the context of space security, in order to support middle Powers in building a deeper understanding of the strategic choices with which they are faced when it comes to space security concerns. [November 2014-June 2015]

(g) Principles of self-defence in space: national perspectives and critical issues

56. UNIDIR held a small expert round table with Secure World Foundation to consider national positions on how existing national commitments on the right to self-defence should be applied in the outer space environment. [31 March 2015]

(h) Annual Cyberstability Conference

57. The 2014 conference was held on 10 February 2014, on the theme "Preventing cyberconflict". The 2015 conference was to be held on 9 and 10 July 2015.

(i) Annual Space Security Conference

58. The theme of the UNIDIR space conference held in Geneva on 19 and 20 March 2014 was "Implementation and compliance". The 2015 conference will also be held in Geneva, on 20 and 21 August 2015, on the theme "The foundations of space security".

4. Security and society

59. The UNIDIR security and society programme focuses on cross-cutting, multidisciplinary approaches to security issues that have wider societal ramifications, on such areas as health, development, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, and human rights. It is also where UNIDIR builds networks beyond security and arms control specialists, for example experts in artificial intelligence and ethics, technology entrepreneurs, medical professionals and design specialists.

(a) Weaponization of increasingly autonomous technologies (phase I)

60. The project's primary aim was to help policymakers to better consider and make informed decisions about the weaponization of increasingly autonomous technologies. In phase I, UNIDIR focused on four specific topics: ways to frame multilateral discussions, the concept of "meaningful human control", issues surrounding ethics and social values, and maritime autonomy. [November 2013-January 2015]

(b) Evidence-based design tool for reintegration programming (phase III)

61. Phase III of the project offered recommendations with regard to next steps for the Inter-Agency Working Group on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration and its member organizations to make evidence-based design available for use by reintegration practitioners and on how to incorporate evidence-based design into the Working Group's training programme on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, emphasizing the critical shift from applying best practices to utilizing best processes. [August 2014-March 2015]

(c) Weaponization of increasingly autonomous technologies: competing narratives (phase II)

62. Phase II will continue to focus on the areas in which UNIDIR can bring added value to international discussions on autonomy. Phase II privileges cross-disciplinary topics, in which the critical issues require discussion and consideration beyond the traditional stakeholders under the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, such as the private sector, scientists involved in research and development and experts from other relevant academic disciplines. [February 2015-January 2017]

(d) Global Day of Action on Military Spending

63. On 13 April 2015, UNIDIR, together with the International Peace Bureau, co-organized an event marking the Global Day of Action on Military Spending, with a focus on 2014 military expenditure data.

(e) Arms control and security issues related to armed unmanned aerial vehicles

64. In order to support the Secretary-General's study on the arms control and security concerns raised by the use of armed unmanned aerial vehicles, UNIDIR co-organized with the Office for Disarmament Affairs an international seminar to consider the arms control and security aspects of the use of armed unmanned aerial vehicles. [15-16 June 2015]

(f) Reverberating effects of explosive force

65. Seed funds have been secured for starting work on the tertiary or "reverberating" effects of explosive weapons use in populated areas. Such humanitarian, development and public health impacts are not currently well understood and may be much greater than widely realized. [August 2015-July 2016]

5. Other activities

(a) Consultative and advisory services

66. One significant indicator of the impact of the work of UNIDIR and the reputation of the Institute is the number of requests for consultative and advisory services. Staff are regularly called upon to advise, consult with or brief interested parties, as well as to make presentations in international meetings and conferences. Requests come from within the United Nations system, from individual Member States and regional groups, from international, multilateral and regional organizations, from presidents of the Conference on Disarmament, and from research institutes, academic bodies, the media and civil society groups. UNIDIR staff also conducted a number of consultancy and advisory meetings with Member States.

67. While Member States expect UNIDIR staff to provide advice and support to the disarmament community, that activity is not covered by dedicated project funding. This is particularly an issue for research staff, for whom such requests involve work over and above their already full-time project work.

(b) Disarmament education

68. In fulfilling its mandate to provide the international community with more diversified and complete data, studies and analyses, UNIDIR considers disarmament education to be a key pillar of its activities. Among others, it contributed to the programme on disarmament and non-proliferation in the twenty-first century within the seminars series of the Information Service of the United Nations Office at Geneva in November 2014, as well as to a seminar on disarmament education organized by the University of London Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy in Geneva in February 2015.

(c) Geneva Forum

69. UNIDIR was a founding partner of the Geneva Forum. Through its public briefings and private workshops, the Geneva Forum offered a unique "safe space" for policymakers and practitioners to build arms-control agendas and support current negotiations. Early in 2015, the Geneva Forum was dissolved, owing in large part to the unfavourable funding environment. The principal organizations, including UNIDIR, will thus continue to pursue, on an ad hoc and individual basis, and with appropriate partners, projects of mutual interest, in particular the current work stream regarding the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty (the Arms Trade Treaty Network), in collaboration with other institutions.

B. Resources and expenditure for 2014

70. The planned income of UNIDIR for 2014 was $3,088,800; the fund balance at the beginning of 2014 was $1,941,800; the income in 2014 was $2,447,300; and total expenditure was $2,788,800, as shown in table 1. In the past several years, on average 85 per cent of the total amount of voluntary contributions was earmarked for specific projects. Projects and activities receive funding on a rolling basis throughout the year. Thus, annual and biennial budgeting is of an indicative nature. Advance planning figures are based on an assessment of the Institute's desired accomplishments for the year and an assessment of historical trends in funding.

Table 1
Income and expenditure for 2014
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Description	*Projections for 2014[a] (a)*	*Actual (b)*	*Increase (decrease) (c=b-a)*
Fund balance at the beginning of the period[b]	1 941.9	1 941.8	(0.1)
Income			
Voluntary contributions and public donations[c]	2 748.3	2 108.1	(640.2)
Subvention from the United Nations regular budget	280.8	280.8	–
Other inter-organization contributions	27.1	40.0	12.9
Interest income	14.0	11.8	(2.2)
Miscellaneous income	18.6	6.6	(12.0)
Total income	**3 088.8**	**2 447.3**	**(641.5)**
Prior-period adjustments	1.6	(1.1)	(2.7)
Refund to donors[d]	(50.2)	(10.9)	39.3
Prior-period obligations	16.9	15.6	(1.3)
Total funds available	**4 999.0**	**4 392.7**	**(606.3)**
Direct expenditure			
Institutional expenditure			
Staff and other personnel costs	1 085.3	1 122.8	37.5
Institutional travel	15.7	12.7	(3.0)
Operating expenses	51.8	71.0	19.2
Project-related costs			
Staff and other personnel costs	1 214.5	1 252.9	38.4
Travel	118.7	156.1	37.4
Contractual services	75.7	27.0	(48.7)
Acquisitions	15.8	2.0	(13.8)
Fellowships, grants and other	106.3	20.3	(86.0)
Total direct expenditure	**2 683.8**	**2 664.8**	**(19.0)**

Description	*Projections for 2014[a] (a)*	*Actual (b)*	*Increase (decrease) (c = b-a)*
Programme support costs	120.2	124.0	3.8
Total expenditure	**2 804.0**	**2 788.8**	**(15.2)**
Fund balance at the end of the period[c]	**2 195.0**	**1 603.9**	**(591.1)**

[a] Revised estimates as presented in document A/69/176/Corr.1.

[b] These funds are already committed in accordance with donor agreements.

[c] See details of voluntary contributions for 2014 in annex II. The actual income from voluntary contributions shows a decrease of $640,200 against the projected amount of voluntary contributions mainly because the estimates are based on an average over six years, whereas the number and amounts of funding agreements vary from year to year.

[d] In accordance with specific donor agreements, refunds are issued to donors when specific project activities are modified and result in real expenditure being lower than the amount initially foreseen in the initial activity budget agreed by the donor.

[e] Includes the required operating cash reserve (15 per cent of direct expenditure, less United Nations regular budget subvention and 5 per cent of direct expenditure for contributions from the European Union).

C. Current resources and expenditure for 2015

71. It should be noted that several projects funded and started in 2014 are still ongoing in 2015, as described in section III.A. The completion of the UNIDIR programme of work for 2015 will depend on the funds secured throughout the year.

Table 2
Projected activities and financial plan for 2015
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Description	*Revised projections for 2015[a] (a)*	*Actual January-March 2015 (b)*	*Difference (c = b-a)*
Fund balance at the beginning of the period[b]	1 603.9	1 603.9	–
Income			
Voluntary contributions and public donations[c]	2 802.5	1 301.6	(1 500.9)
Subvention from the United Nations regular budget[d]	303.8	288.8	(15.0)
Other inter-organization contributions[e]	30.8	88.3	57.5
Interest income[e]	9.6	0.0	(9.6)
Miscellaneous income	18.3	0.5	(17.8)
Total income	**3 165.1**	**1 679.3**	**(1 485.8)**
Prior-period adjustments	3.1	0.0	(3.1)
Refund to donors	(41.1)	0.0	41.1
Prior-period obligations	15.7	0.0	(15.7)
Total funds available	**4 746.7**	**3 283.2**	**(1 463.5)**

Description	*Revised projections for 2015*[a] *(a)*	*Actual January-March 2015 (b)*	*Difference (c=b-a)*
Direct expenditure			
Institutional expenditure			
Staff and other personnel costs[f]	991.7	289.9	(701.8)
Institutional travel	15.9	0.6	(15.3)
Operating expenses[g]	57.4	175.0	117.6
Project-related costs			
Staff and other personnel costs	1 246.5	316.5	(930.0)
Travel	126.1	31.3	(94.8)
Contractual services	79.2	2.0	(77.2)
Acquisitions	15.9	0.9	(15.9)
Fellowships, grants and other	109.7	0.0	(109.7)
Total direct expenditure	**2 642.3**	**815.3**	**(1 827.0)**
Programme support costs	143.4	18.1	(125.3)
Total expenditure	**2 785.6**	**833.4**	**(1 952.2)**
Fund balance at the end of the period	**1 961.0**	**2 449.8**	**488.8**

[a] Projections for 2015 were based on the average for the period 2009-2014, plus 1 per cent, except for the regular budget subvention, interest income and institutional staff (see footnotes d-f).

[b] These funds are already committed in accordance with donor agreements.

[c] The amount of voluntary contribution and other inter-organization contributions for the period January-March 2015 is high mainly because the projections are based on an average over six years, whereas the number and amounts of funding agreements vary from year to year.

[d] The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, in a communication to the Institute dated 17 February 2015, indicates a revised appropriation of $584,600 for the biennium 2014-2015. The amount of the subvention in 2014 was $280,800; $288,800 was received in January 2015.

[e] The ratio of the interest income for 2014 to the opening balance for 2014 was used to make the projection of the interest income for 2015 and 2016.

[f] See annex I. The amounts reported for actual staff costs are high because they include obligations made prior to 31 March to cover several months' worth of salary costs from April 2015.

[g] Operating expenses for the period 1 January-31 March 2015 include a loss on exchange of $163,400. This includes a gain on exchange on payments of $175.37 and a loss on exchange on the re-evaluation of unpaid pledged contributions of $163,559.42.

D. Projected activities and financial plan for 2016

72. Nuclear issues will feature prominently in the Institute's programme of work for 2016. While the outcome of the 2015 Review Conference will certainly influence how the international community approaches the next five years, UNIDIR will continue to work on concrete measures to advance discussions on fissile

materials, nuclear transparency and security, as well as offer evidence-based analysis of the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons.

73. The UNIDIR conventional arms portfolio is based on building practical tools, very much from a user's perspective, and on how best to support affected States, programme and policy designers and United Nations agencies as they seek to design and implement effective small arms and light weapons programmes in line with their international commitments. Effective implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty, such practical measures as end user certificate harmonization and addressing diversion are high priorities in the coming year, as are improvised explosive devices and explosive weapons.

74. The emerging security portfolio will continue to build on UNIDIR leadership in space and cybersecurity, with a particular focus on capacity-building in developing countries and working with middle Powers and those stakeholders not always present in multilateral discussions.

75. Work in the UNIDIR security and society portfolio will continue to build on the Institute's successful cross-cutting, multidisciplinary approach to security issues that have wider societal ramifications: the project on the weaponization of increasingly autonomous technologies will continue to expand, with funding secured until 2017. UNIDIR will be seeking to embed its evidence-based design for reintegration into peacekeeper training, where the said design technique can assist those on the ground in rapidly designing effective and responsive reintegration projects.

76. In the next five years, UNIDIR aims to have an increasingly prominent role in the United Nations disarmament machinery. Engaging through the disarmament machinery is an important mechanism to support all States and offer analysis on how to make the less productive parts of the machinery work better. UNIDIR welcomes the fact that there have been discussions during the past two sessions of the Disarmament Commission on the possibility of requesting UNIDIR to conduct specific studies; those discussions have not yet led to a mandate.

77. In the next five years, much greater emphasis will be placed on connecting UNIDIR work to the larger set of global issues to which Member States have committed as priorities, particularly the post-2015 development agenda and humanitarian and health issues. The UNIDIR mandate, defined in article II, paragraph 2, of its statute, states that the work of the Institute shall aim "to facilitate progress ... towards greater security for all States and towards the economic and social development of all peoples". In the coming years, UNIDIR will conduct further evidence-based research to promote a wider and deeper understanding of the security-disarmament-development relationship. A large portion of the Institute's projects and activities budget is in eligible areas of official development assistance. UNIDIR has always had a cross-cutting approach, but this will be pursued more systematically and with longer-term objectives.

78. The financial expenditure to support the 2016 programme of work is projected at $2,968,700, as shown in table 3.

Table 3

Proposed activities and financial plan for 2016

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Description	*2016 projections*[a]
Fund balance at the beginning of the period[b]	1 961.0
Income	
Voluntary contributions and public donations	2 870.4
Subvention from the United Nations regular budget[c]	292.3
Other inter-organization contributions	34.3
Interest income[d]	11.8
Miscellaneous income	18.6
Total income	**3 227.4**
Prior-period adjustments	0.3
Refund to donors	(48.0)
Prior-period obligations	18.4
Total funds available	**5 159.1**
Direct expenditure	
Institutional expenditure	
Staff and other personnel costs[e]	1 167.6
Institutional travel	15.2
Operating expenses	60.7
Project-related costs	
Staff and other personnel costs	1 238.7
Travel	123.1
Contractual services	72.7
Acquisitions	14.9
Fellowships, grants and other	128.0
Total direct expenditure	**2 821.0**
Programme support costs	147.7
Total expenditure	**2 968.7**
Fund balance at the end of the period	**2 190.4**

[a] Projections for 2016 were based on the average for the period 2010-2015, plus 1 per cent, except for the regular budget subvention, interest income and institutional staff costs (see footnotes c-e).

[b] These funds are already committed in accordance with donor agreements.

[c] Represents half of the approved amount for the subvention to UNIDIR for the biennium 2014-2015, pending recosting for the biennium 2016-2017.

[d] The ratio of the interest income for 2014 to the opening balance for 2014 was used to make the projection of the interest income for 2015 and 2016.

[e] For further details see annex I.

IV. Resource mobilization

79. In accordance with article VII, paragraph 1, of the statute of UNIDIR, voluntary contributions from States and public and private organizations are the principal source of financing. Resource mobilization is therefore at the heart of the Institute's financial stability.

80. There are five mechanisms for financing UNIDIR, which are set out below.

(a) United Nations regular budget

81. The statute of UNIDIR, approved by the General Assembly, states that a "subvention towards meeting the costs of the Director and the staff of the Institute may be provided from the regular budget of the United Nations".

(b) Voluntary contributions to the institutional operations budget

82. This funding supports the framework of the Institute: the human resources required for UNIDIR to carry out its activities in compliance with United Nations financial and administrative rules and regulations, as well as in accordance with contribution agreements.

(c) Voluntary contributions to the projects and activities budget

83. Funding is raised from Governments, foundations and international organizations and earmarked for specific activities and projects on the basis of a detailed proposal and budget prepared by UNIDIR.

(d) Contributions to the Stability Fund

84. The Institute's Stability Fund is a revolving fund that helps to stabilize its operations by increasing liquidity.

(e) Requests by the General Assembly

85. Member States have the possibility to commission specific studies from UNIDIR. According to the Institute's statute, "specific activities which the General Assembly may request the Institute to add to its regular work programme shall be paid for from the regular budget of the United Nations in amounts to be determined at the time the activities are requested".

86. In times of shifting fiscal and programmatic priorities, overreliance on a small group of funders is risky. It is therefore important to make every effort to broaden the base of financial support to UNIDIR, both among States and non-governmental philanthropic sources.

87. As noted above, the UNIDIR mandate contains clear references to the developmental aspects of its work. In the next five years UNIDIR will transition from a project-by-project approach to a more systematic integration of the development dimension as a cross-cutting theme across the whole of the Institute's programme of work. This not only supports the international community with relevant and much-needed security analysis as it moves to implement its post-2015 development agenda commitments but also aligns with the funding priorities of the majority of funders.

V. Communications and outreach

88. Communications and outreach are essential to transmitting the Institute's research results and impact to the global community. In addition to communicating substantive research results, current communication efforts are focused on raising awareness of the Institute's unique role in the international community and its value added. UNIDIR has nearly finished its transition to producing only electronic publications. In 2015, particular emphasis has been placed on outreach through social media.

89. Communications and outreach efforts continue to be hindered by the loss of the Institute's only dedicated communications staff in 2013 owing to a lack of institutional funding.

VI. Conclusion

90. In recent years, Member States have resoundingly expressed their strong political will in support of the Institute's continued autonomy and its unique governance structure. It is now time for Member States to take ownership of the Institute's future, to ensure that UNIDIR can build upon its first 35 years and continue to serve all States as the thought leader of the United Nations system on disarmament and related international security questions.

Annex I

Projected institutional staff costs for 2015-2016

(Thousands of United States dollars)

2015	*Total net salary*	*Staff assessment*	*Common staff costs*	*Representation allowances*	*Total*
United Nations contracts[a]					
1 D-2	227.1	36.5	77.4	0.6	341.6
2 GS (OL)	205.0	76.0	70.0	–	351.0
1 P-5 (November-December 2015)	31.3	4.5	10.7	–	46.5
1 P-3 (November-December 2015)	22.3	2.8	7.6	–	32.7
Subtotal	**485.7**	**119.8**	**165.7**	**0.6**	**771.8**
UNIDIR contracts[b]					
1 P-5 (January-October 2015)	129.6	–	–	–	129.6
1 P-3 (January-October 2015)	90.3	–	–	–	90.3
Subtotal	**219.9**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**219.9**
Total	**705.6**	**119.8**	**165.7**	**0.6**	**991.7**

2016	*Total net salary*	*Staff assessment*	*Common staff costs*	*Representation allowances*	*Total*
United Nations contracts[a]					
1 D-2	227.1	36.5	77.4	0.6	341.6
1 P-5	187.9	26.8	64.1	–	278.8
1 P-3	133.6	17.0	45.6	–	196.2
2 GS (OL)	205.0	76.0	70.0	–	351.0
Total	**753.6**	**156.3**	**257.1**	**0.6**	**1 167.6**

Abbreviation: GS (OL), General Service (Other level).

[a] Based on standard salary costs for the biennium 2014-2015 applicable to Geneva (version 13). The P-5 and P-3 positions will be regularized in 2015 to comply with United Nations rules and regulations and Umoja implementation.

[b] Exchange rate: $1 = CHF 0.95.

Annex II

Details of voluntary contributions for 2014

(United States dollars)

	Amount
A. Governmental contributions	
Pledged prior to 2014 for 2014	
Finland	53 619
Germany	67 935
Norway	160 901
Pledged in 2014 for 2014	
Australia	13 181
China	19 985
Finland	54 422
France	160 000
Germany	86 741
Iraq	10 000
Ireland	65 876
Mexico	10 000
Netherlands	394 737
Norway	555 394
Pakistan	4 949
Republic of Korea	30 000
Russian Federation	99 965
Serbia	2 000
Switzerland	277 407
Turkey	4 000
United Arab Emirates	10 000
Subtotal, A	**2 081 112**
B. Public donations	
Northeastern University	7 000
Simons Foundation	20 000
Subtotal, B	**27 000**
C. Inter-organization	
Office for Disarmament Affairs	40 000
Total	**2 148 112**

Annex III

Institutional operations budget for 2016

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	Amount
Institutional staff[a]	
D-2	341.6
P-5	278.8
P-3	196.2
2 GS (OL)	351.0
Subtotal, institutional staff	**1 167.6**
Travel, D-2	15.0
Communications and outreach	50.0
Information technology and telecommunications	
Information and Communications Technology Service	11.0
Telecommunications	6.0
Subtotal, information technology and telecommunications	**17.0**
Miscellaneous operating costs	6.0
Subtotal	**1 255.6**
Programme support costs	62.8
Total	**1 318.4**

Abbreviation: GS (OL), General Service (Other level).

[a] Based on standard salary costs for the biennium 2014-2015 applicable to Geneva (version 13).

United Nations A/70/178

General Assembly

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Seventieth session
Item 28 (a) of the provisional agenda*
Social development: implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

World social situation 2015: leaving no one behind

Note by the Secretariat

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 56/177, a summary of the *Report on the World Social Situation*, a biennial publication , is to be submitted by the Secretary-General to the Assembly at its seventieth session. As the post-2015 development agenda and the strategic development goals, to be adopted by the Assembly in September 2015, are to be taken into account in the report, the *Report on the World Social Situation 2015: Leaving No One Behind* will not be available in time to permit the preparation and issuance of the mandated summary before the consideration of item 28 (a) of the provisional agenda. The summary will thus be issued for the consideration of the Assembly at its seventy-first session.

* A/70/150.

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United Nations A/70/179

General Assembly

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23 July 2015

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Seventieth session
Item 28 (b) of the provisional agenda*
Social development: social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Promoting social integration through social inclusion

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report has been prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 68/131 of 18 December 2013 on promoting social integration through social inclusion. It builds on the findings of the four previous reports on social integration and provides an account of national efforts and the initiatives of the United Nations system aimed at promoting the civic, social, economic and political participation of persons belonging to groups or in situations in which they are vulnerable or marginalized.

* A/70/150.

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Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	3
II.	Regional approaches to social integration	4
III.	Social integration efforts at the national level	7
	A. Promoting active participation of people in civic, social, economic and political life	7
	B. Reducing inequalities	11
	C. National institutions for the promotion of social inclusion and social integration	14
IV.	Initiatives of the United Nations system	15
V.	Conclusions and recommendations	18
	A. Conclusions	18
	B. Recommendations	19

I. Introduction

1. At the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, the international community recognized the importance of social integration and resolved to work towards creating a society for all, where people can fully exercise their rights and responsibilities and contribute to society on an equal basis.

2. Twenty years later, the goal of creating an inclusive society for all still remains largely unfulfilled, as many are still not able to fully participate in the civil, political, social and economic life of their countries. Many people remain excluded based on their gender, age, race, caste, ethnicity, disability or other characteristics and, as a result, have limited, lower-level access to health services, education and employment. Social exclusion therefore still remains a major obstacle to the achievement of development goals.

3. Encouragingly, however, there is growing recognition all over the world that dedicated policies and programmes have a positive impact on social inclusion, particularly of excluded groups.[1]

4. The present report is the fifth in the series relating to social inclusion, social integration and social cohesion. It aims towards building on the findings of the previous reports, which provided detailed background on those concepts and focused on practical strategies in their support.[2] The last report (A/68/169), issued in 2013, reviewed recent developments relating to social protection, education and institution-building and policy coherence as strategies for achieving social integration.

5. This report has been prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 68/131, in which the Assembly, inter alia, stressed that Member States should prioritize the creation of a "society for all" based on respect for all human rights and the principles of equality among individuals, access to basic social services and promotion of the active participation of every member of society — in particular those belonging to groups or in situations in which they vulnerable or marginalized — in all aspects of life, including civic, social, economic and political activities, as well as in decision-making processes. Section two of the report offers an overview of regional approaches to social integration. Section three offers an account of recent national efforts aimed at promoting the civic, social, economic and political participation of persons belonging to groups or in situations in which they are vulnerable or marginalized. Specific forms of participation include economic participation through employment; participation in policy design and service provision; participation of youth, older persons and persons with disabilities; and access to services and social protection, as well as involvement in urban planning and budgeting.

6. Section four focuses on national efforts aimed at reducing inequalities through non-discrimination, poverty reduction and education and institutional arrangements conducive to social inclusion and social integration.

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[1] See World Bank, *Inclusion Matters: The Foundation for Shared Prosperity* (Washington, D.C., 2013).

[2] The previous reports were issued under the symbols E/CN.5/2009/2, E/CN.5/2010/2, E/CN.5/2011/2 and A/68/169.

7. The country-level information presented in the report is based on the responses of Member States to the note verbale transmitted by the Secretariat in February 2015 pursuant to the terms of General Assembly resolution 68/131. The Secretariat received a total of 10 responses, from the Governments of Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, the Dominican Republic, Lithuania, Mexico, Morocco, Peru, Romania, the United States of America and Saudi Arabia.

8. Section five of the report reviews the activities of entities of the United Nations system in support of social integration. The final section presents several conclusions and offers recommendations for advancing social integration through social inclusion.

II. Regional approaches to social integration

9. While regional approaches to social inclusion, integration and cohesion differ in terms of their scope and application, improving access to basic services, social protection and employment remains central to advancing social inclusion in most regions. Special measures for reducing inequalities and improving the situation of vulnerable groups, including through changes made in legislative frameworks so as to enable the outlawing of different forms of discrimination, are also part of overall social integration efforts in many parts of the world.

10. Access to education, health care and housing and equality before the law are at the core of social integration in Africa pursuant to the terms of the African Common Position on Social Integration, adopted by the African Union Conference of Ministers in Charge of Social Development in Member States of the African Union at its first session, held in Windhoek from 27 to 31 October 2008. The African Common Position calls for member States to develop comprehensive socioeconomic policies, improve coordination in the public sector so as to overcome fragmentation and piecemeal programming in order to deal with social challenges, improve democratic governance and respect for human rights, and facilitate involvement of civil society organizations in design and implementation of programmes and policies.

11. The social and economic inclusion of older persons has recently been a particular focus of attention in Africa. The African Union Conference of Ministers in Charge of Social Development has submitted a draft protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights,[3] concerning the rights of older persons in Africa, for adoption and signature by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union. Articles of the protocol address issues including the elimination of discrimination against older persons, access to justice and equal protection before the law, the right to make decisions, protection from abuse and harmful traditional practices, care and support and access to health-care and educational services and credit.

12. In the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) regions, social protection is considered key to achieving social integration. As indicated in a recent analysis of the various forms and pathways of inequality in Asia and the Pacific, inasmuch as market-led growth alone has not been sufficient to achieve inclusive

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1520, No. 26363.

and sustainable development, enhancing social protection can be an effective measure for reducing inequality and contributing to social integration.[4]

13. In the ESCAP region, social protection is viewed as a means of achieving social integration, as it contributes to social and political stability within countries,[5] while inequality is perceived as an impediment to the integration of economic growth, social inclusion and environmental sustainability. Despite this common understanding, inequalities in income and in access to health care and education are still common in the region.

14. In particular, there are still pockets of deprivation in access to social services in several countries of the region, where lower-income groups have limited access to health-care services and education compared with higher-income groups. Enhancing access to services and social protection is a measure that can be taken by countries in the region to tackle inequalities and enhance social inclusion.[6]

15. ESCWA emphasizes that in order to combat poverty and promote equity, equality and human rights, social protection should be woven into an inclusive and comprehensive participatory social policy.[7] ESCWA member States utilize a number of participatory frameworks when developing public policies, including a social protection policy. For instance, Governments in the region have been establishing social observatories comprising civil society organizations and academics to assist in the formulation of policies based on socioeconomic data.[7]

16. Throughout the region, access to social protection services is seen as ensuring that the benefits of economic progress are shared more equitably. Although Arab countries all have some form of social protection schemes, those schemes tend to be highly fragmented and are perceived as approaches offering temporary social assistance rather than as components of an integrated social protection strategy.[7] Social protection schemes in the region comprise several programmes that are narrow in scope and run in piecemeal fashion by the private and public sectors and non-governmental organizations, with only one third of the population of the region of the Middle East and Northern Africa covered by formal social protection systems.[7]

17. As indicated in the recent ESCWA analysis, it is important for the region to educate citizens on their rights to social protection. The beneficiaries of social protection programmes should not view themselves as passive recipients of subsidies and services, but rather as active citizens who are able to demand a fairer distribution of resources. Other tools for involving people in decision-making on social protection include national policy feedback dialogues; strategic partnerships involving different stakeholders designed to formulate and implement more responsive social protection policies; and observatories for participatory and informed policymaking to ensure that programmes and initiatives are better targeted.[7]

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[4] See ESCAP, working paper entitled "Confronting inequalities in Asia and the Pacific: the role of social protection", December, 2014.

[5] ESCAP, note by the secretariat on confronting rising inequalities in Asia and the Pacific: trends and opportunities in the context of the development agenda beyond 2015 (E/ESCAP/CSD(3)/1), 13 June 2014.

[6] ESCAP, "Confronting inequalities in Asia and the Pacific".

[7] ESCWA, "Participation and social protection in the Arab region" (E/ESCWA/SDD/2014/Technical Paper.7) (5 November 2014), p. 22.

18. Although the countries in the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) region have made significant progress in advancing social inclusion through the improved exercise of people's civil and political rights, genuine participation of groups that are traditionally marginalized, owing to their socioeconomic status, gender or ethnic origin, is still limited. High levels of inequality and exclusion are also linked to difficulties associated with the realization of people's socioeconomic rights.[8]

19. *Americas Quarterly*, a magazine dedicated to policy analysis and debate on economic, finance, social development and politics in the western hemisphere, publishes the Social Inclusion Index, which ranks countries in the Americas in terms of their potential to improve social mobility, a range of rights and social policies, and access to formal jobs, as well as public attitudes and behaviour.[9] The 2014 Index report noted that patterns of political, economic and social exclusion are based on structural inefficiencies which are difficult to change in the short term. Additional challenges lie in the lack of institutions dedicated to social inclusion, and a legacy of attitudes towards race and gender and exclusionary laws.

20. The General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) devoted its forty-fourth regular session (Asunción, 2-5 June, 2014) to the topic "Development with social inclusion". In its final declaration, the member countries of OAS pledged to commit their efforts to eradicating hunger and poverty, in particular extreme poverty; combating inequity, inequality, discrimination and social exclusion; and increasing equitable access to health services, as well as to quality and inclusive education.[10] The declaration encouraged the adoption of intersectoral public policies on social protection and inclusion so as to strengthen respect for human rights. Similarly, the adoption of measures for the full and effective participation in society of all persons was encouraged. The declaration further recognized that universal access to quality and inclusive education, with special attention given to individuals and groups in vulnerable situations, contributes to strengthening social inclusion as well as the development of the individual, economic development and development of democratic institutions.

21. The European Union Europe 2020 Strategy includes the Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion and the Agenda for New Skills and Jobs.[11] Active social inclusion, together with employment, innovation, education and climate/energy objectives, forms part of an initiative that sets targets aimed at lifting 20 million people out of poverty and social exclusion and increasing employment of the working-age population to 75 per cent.

22. In the European Union, active inclusion is defined as "enabling every citizen, notably the most disadvantaged, to fully participate in society, including having a job".[12] Strategies to ensure full participation for all European Union citizens involve adequate income support and access to job opportunities; facilitating people's access

[8] Organization of American States, *Inequality and Social Inclusion in the Americas: 14 Essays*, 2nd. ed. (Washington, D.C., 2011). Available from http://www.oas.org/docs/desigualdad/LIBRO-DESIGUALDAD-INGLES.pdf.

[9] See http://www.americasquarterly.org/charticles/socialinclusionindex2014/.

[10] See http://www.oas.org/en/media_center/press_release.asp?sCodigo=S-005/14.

[11] See http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=750.

[12] See http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1059&langId=en.

to labour markets; confronting in-work poverty; forestalling disincentives to work; and supporting people's access to quality services.

23. National plans for social inclusion in the European Union reflect national political, social and economic priorities, as set by member States, as well as differences in policy dynamics.

24. Social integration efforts as directed towards the Roma population, one of the most discriminated-against groups in Europe, have received special attention. A regional political commitment, the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015, has aimed at improving the socioeconomic status and social inclusion of the Roma population, with a particular focus on health, education, employment and housing. Similarly, the European Union Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies by 2020, launched by the European Commission in 2011, requests that all European Union members develop and implement targeted strategies for promoting integration of the Roma in the areas of health, housing, education and employment. Governments are required to adhere to, and implement the commitments already made through international instruments centred around social inclusion, poverty, health and discrimination.[13]

25. Responding to the recent immigration crisis in Europe, the European Commission has called for mandatory national quotas with respect to relocating new immigrants throughout Europe. The proposal — which has raised considerable concern — aims towards relocating migrants based on countries' population size, gross domestic product (GDP), unemployment rate and existing number of asylum seekers.[14] The recently proposed European agenda on migration also emphasizes that a successful migration policy requires effective integration policies; under the agenda, funding would be extended for targeted initiatives designed to improve language and professional skills, and access to services and the labour market, as well as inclusive education.[15]

III. Social integration efforts at the national level

A. Promoting active participation of people in civic, social, economic and political life

26. While Member States have long focused their efforts on improving the employability of young people against a backdrop of pervasive unemployment and underemployment, they are increasingly adopting measures aimed at promoting the economic participation of older persons and persons with disabilities.

27. Governments are also recognizing that involving individuals, communities and civil society organizations in policy design and service provision is essential to reversing exclusionary processes. Additionally, there is growing evidence that policymaking processes informed by a knowledge of individuals and communities often lead to better outcomes. Examples of such participatory policymaking and

[13] For further examples of national strategies of European Union member States, see sect. III.

[14] See http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-32693737.

[15] See http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/background-information/docs/communication_on_the_european_agenda_on_migration_en.pdf.

monitoring exercises involve young people and older persons as well as persons with disabilities, including persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

28. While affordable and accessible transportation is commonly considered critical to the social inclusion of persons with disabilities and older persons, the experiences of a growing number of cities point to its importance for other disadvantaged social groups and communities at large.

29. Also, more cities worldwide are experimenting with innovative approaches to social inclusion policies such as participatory budgeting.

Economic participation through employment

30. Labour-market participation is a cornerstone of social integration strategies in many countries. Efforts to stimulate job creation and improve employability-related skills through training constitute key steps towards greater economic participation. Economic inclusion of specific groups through employment, especially the long-term unemployed, and young people, as well as persons with disabilities, is also often part of social integration initiatives.

31. Peru's economic inclusion policy aims at allowing people to earn adequate income for themselves and their households and increase their food security independently of Government-provided monetary assistance. The strategy focuses on developing income-generating opportunities for poor families in rural areas through economic diversification, skills improvement and access to services.

32. In the European Union member countries, as noted above, enabling every citizen, notably the most disadvantaged, to fully participate in society, including having a job, is part of active inclusion. Measures designed to accomplish this task include adequate income support and assistance with respect to obtaining employment, participating in inclusive labour markets and access to quality services.[16]

33. The aim of Lithuania's National Action Plan for Increasing Social Inclusion 2014-2020 is to reduce poverty and social exclusion through its focus on active employment measures and development of social services as well as cash assistance with specific targets.

34. Many Governments focus on facilitating job opportunities for specific vulnerable groups. In Bulgaria, they include unemployed youth up to 29 years of age, adults over 50 years of age, persons with disabilities, the Roma ethnic minority and the long-term unemployed. Lithuania's Youth Guarantee initiative aims towards ensuring that all young people (under age 28) receive an offer of employment, or continuing education, including apprenticeship or work placement within four months of becoming unemployed or leaving formal education.

35. In Azerbaijan, efforts are under way to facilitate access to employment for youth, vocational training for internally displaced persons and refugees, promotion of self-employment among youth and vocational training courses. Moreover, its Social Protection Strengthening project, implemented jointly by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population and the World Bank aims, inter alia, at

[16] See http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1059&langId=en.

improving employment services through labour orientation activities and development of professional standards and module training programmes for youth.

36. Similar programmes are implemented in developing countries. For example, Morocco's National Agency for the Promotion of Employment and Skills is a public service entity which assists employers in matching job seekers with employment opportunities. As an active intermediary on the labour market, the National Agency is tasked with organizing and implementing programmes for the promotion of skilled jobs. It consists of 78 agencies located in different regions of the country which provide assistance with respect to self-employment projects and professional capacity development of young entrepreneurs.

37. Financial inclusion is part of overall economic inclusion. In the Dominican Republic, a variety of economic and social inclusion programmes are provided with support, including special programmes whose aim is to improve poor households' access to financial education and services as well as microcredit. Under the overall programme Progresando con Solidaridad (Progressing with Solidarity), launched in 2012, over 3,000 heads of households benefited from financial education and improved their knowledge of and skills in personal finance management and use of financial services. Similarly, several financial inclusion programmes targeting social programmes beneficiaries, older persons and women living in rural areas are part of overall social inclusion strategies in Peru.

Participation in policy design and service provision

38. Over the years, the General Assembly has encouraged Member States to mainstream social integration objectives into social policy making through promoting the participation of persons belonging to groups or in situations in which they are vulnerable or marginalized, in planning, implementing and monitoring processes. Fittingly, diverse consultation frameworks on social policy have been created to ensure better public participation in policy design and implementation.

39. The National Development Plan of Mexico, 2013-2018, was established through civic consultation, with the participation of researchers and academic experts, non-governmental organizations and general public.

40. In Saudi Arabia, active participation is promoted through social development centres and committees focusing on family, childhood, youth, women, domestic production, social ties, family counselling, awareness and education, and persons with disabilities.

41. In South Africa, the National Department of Health organized wide-ranging public consultations on the new National Health Insurance scheme, with the participation of medical scheme administrators, representatives of the pharmaceutical industry, professional associations, statutory bodies, government departments, academia, civil society and members of Parliament. A major outcome of the consultation process was the introduction in 2011 of the essential health-care provision, which provides access to health care to all citizens and residents regardless of employment status or ability to contribute to the National Health Insurance scheme.[17]

[17] See http://www.samj.org.za/index.php/samj/article/view/6601/4920.

Participation of youth, older persons and persons with disabilities

42. Some countries have taken active measures to facilitate the participation of specific groups in socioeconomic development, particularly youth, older persons and persons with disabilities.

43. Against a backdrop of pervasive unemployment and underemployment, youth constitute the largest excluded group in the Middle East and Northern Africa region. In most countries of the region, the majority of youth have few, if any, opportunities to participate in the economic development of their country which hampers economic growth, contributes to idleness, isolation and frustration and fuels social unrest.

44. Promotion of active ageing and independent living for older persons is part of overall social inclusion strategies in many countries. In the United States of America, the Older Americans Act encompasses a nutrition programme and promotes the socialization, health and well-being of older Americans, especially those in "greatest social need" as a result of disabilities, language barriers, or cultural, social or geographical isolation, due, inter alia, to racial or ethnic status.

45. In Romania, civil dialogue advisory committees for older persons, comprising representatives of Dialogue, Family and Social Solidarity County Directorates, and health insurance and pensions schemes, as well as representatives of decentralized public services of ministries and presidents of county councils of the elderly, have been operating since 2004. Older persons' representatives are consulted on draft legislation affecting issues of economic, social, medical and cultural import. The committees analyse socioeconomic challenges faced by older persons and develop proposals on how to tackle them.

46. In the United States, the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 aims towards ensuring that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families participate in the design of, and have access to, community services, individualized forms of support and other forms of assistance which promote self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life. The Act supports the National Network of University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research and Service. These centres are either interdisciplinary education, research and public service units of a university system, or public or not-for-profit entities associated with universities. Further, State Councils on Developmental Disabilities provide services assistance for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families, while State-level Protection and Advocacy Systems protect the legal and human rights of all persons with disabilities. In addition, Aging and Disability Resource Centers support the efforts of States to streamline access to long-term services and support options for older adults and individuals with disabilities.

Accessible transportation

47. Reliable, affordable and accessible transportation is a necessary component of meaningful inclusion for all, but even more so for persons with disabilities and older persons. Some Member States have engaged persons with disabilities and older persons in the design and planning of public transportation in urban areas so that their needs can best be met.

48. In the United States, the Transportation Research and Demonstration Program of the Administration for Community Living engaged persons with disabilities and older adults from 17 communities around the country in making suggestions on how to improve their transportation system. Seven communities received funding to implement those proposals.[18]

49. Between 2004 and 2008, the city of Medellin (Colombia) transformed its transportation system so as to render it more inclusive, with cable cars running between comunas (municipalities or councils) previously in conflict. New public spaces, including parks and museums, were also created to encourage social interaction. A large part of the city's municipal budget is committed to social investments targeting vulnerable parts of the population, including older people. Some programmes organize youth and older persons into community action groups in order to help the vulnerable advocate for their interests before municipalities (especially at the time of budgetary planning) and assist them in holding government entities accountable.

Participatory budgeting

50. Participatory budgeting has been implemented in many countries, particularly those in Latin America. In Europe, several municipalities in France, Germany, Italy, Poland and Spain have adopted participatory approaches. In order to improve service delivery to communities, local governments in sub-Saharan African countries such as Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe allow for civic participation in the budget preparation process. Similarly, some rural municipalities in India have introduced participatory budgeting schemes to ensure fair distribution of social transfers. Some studies indicate that villages that implemented mandatory village assemblies targeted the most vulnerable households more successfully, thereby limiting the capture of resources by local elites.[19]

51. Participatory budgeting, although less common in Arab countries, is seen as a helpful mechanism for making social protection mechanisms more responsive to people's needs in the region. However, institutions facilitating public participation at procedural and informal levels are needed. The effectiveness of public spending is reduced by corruption and clientelism in most countries in the region. To improve citizen participation in the Arab region, ESCWA recommends ensuring greater openness of political and governance systems; improving the enabling legal frameworks that ensure basic freedoms, such as freedom of speech and a free media; improving the capacity for participation inside and outside government; and, most importantly, ensuring the willingness and capacity of the State to make budget-related information available to the public.[19]

B. Reducing inequalities

52. Reducing inequalities has become a policy priority in much of the world as well as an integral part of the development agenda. The basis for achieving social inclusion through the reduction of inequalities lies in addressing the issues

[18] See http://www.act.gov/Programs/CIP/OCASD/Transportation/index.aspx.

[19] ESCWA, "Participation and social protection in the Arab region" (see footnote 7).

associated with the economic, social and legal underpinnings of exclusion. The lack of social integration is often associated with poverty, while poverty reduction is often seen as a pathway to social integration and greater inclusion.

53. Approaches to the social inclusion of people living in poverty are two-pronged and consist in meeting their basic needs, including health, through the direct provisions of services and/or cash transfers and empowering them through education. Provision of social protection, an integral part of the decent work agenda, has also become an essential component of the poverty reduction and social integration toolbox.

54. Increasingly, Member States are paying more attention to identifying and addressing barriers to the social and cultural participation of excluded individuals and groups, in particular the various forms of discrimination that they face. National institutions tasked with the promotion of equality and social inclusion increasingly play a significant role in providing both a better understanding of, and a more effective and integrated response to combating, social exclusion and discrimination.

Poverty reduction

55. In many countries, equalization of opportunities through social protection and conditional cash transfers for households living in poverty are part of social integration efforts.

56. In Peru, the National Strategy "Include to Grow" (Estrategia Nacional "Incluir para Crecer") focuses mainly on equalization of opportunities for children in rural areas. Its Juntos programme offers conditional cash transfers to mothers in extreme poverty based on their children's health and education status, while its National Strategy for Development and Social Inclusion focuses on child nutrition and early childhood development. Both programmes aim at preventing the intergenerational transfer of poverty.

57. In Romania, the National Strategy for Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction for 2014-2020 aims towards reducing the number of people at risk for poverty and social exclusion, in line with the targets of the Europe 2020 Strategy. The main programmatic components of the Strategy include help for vulnerable families through child allowances, provision of maternity leave (including a longer period for mothers of children with disabilities), income support and pro-work incentives for programme beneficiaries.

58. In the Dominican Republic, the programme Progressing with Solidarity combines conditional cash transfers with opportunities for educational, technical and professional development, access to information and communications technologies and creation of microenterprises, as well as opportunities for financial literacy, as a means of providing a sustainable exit from poverty. The programme's family-oriented interventions also aim at improving the health and nutrition of family members as well as educating them as citizens.

59. In Mexico, efforts to reduce poverty and inequalities are based on improving people's access to basic services, decent housing, food, education and health.

Access to services and social protection

60. In recent years, several Member States have taken steps towards extending the coverage and benefits of social protection provisions, particularly to those most in need. In Azerbaijan, the World Bank-supported Targeted Social Assistance programme provides cash benefits to low-income families, which account for approximately 10 per cent of the total population. Almost half of the recipients are children. Efforts are also being made to improve the quality of services in childcare centres so as to ensure better cognitive, emotional and physical development of children. Also in Azerbaijan, public rehabilitation centres, whose aim is to meet the social needs of children with health problems through functional assessment and activity and game therapies, have been established.

61. As mentioned, Peru's social inclusion model focuses on ensuring opportunities for the next generation through children's access to basic health, nutrition and early education.[20]

Education

62. Ensuring equal access to quality secondary education for all is often seen as one of the best social inclusion strategies for helping to reduce inequalities, while compulsory primary education is seen as a key instrument for preventing the social exclusion of disadvantaged groups.

63. New education laws in Romania have been enacted to ensure equal access to quality education so as to both facilitate the personal development of the younger generations and fulfil the socioeconomic needs of society. A central aim of the new curriculum is to ensure respect for the cultural identity of all and the rights of national minorities, and to promote intercultural dialogue. With the support of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), special training is provided for teachers of Roma history and language through intensive courses. The new curriculum also places emphasis on the participation and responsibility of parents.

Combating discrimination

64. Equality before the law is a fundamental principle which is enshrined in national constitutions, while inequality is increasingly seen as a major obstacle to social cohesion. As discrimination is a source of inequality and an obstacle to social integration, anti-discrimination measures have been included in social integration strategies.

65. Bulgaria's Act for Protection against Discrimination, for example, provides a solid legal basis for protection against all forms of discrimination, including with regard to education, employment and participation in decision-making processes. The Act provides for balanced participation of both men and women, as well as of persons belonging to ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, in governance and decision-making processes at national and local levels. It explicitly prohibits all types of direct or indirect discrimination on the grounds of sex, race, ethnicity, nationality, origin, religion or belief, education, political affiliation, personal or public status, disability, age, sexual orientation, family status or property status or on any other grounds, as outlined in other legal documents and international treaties ratified by Bulgaria.

[20] See http://www.midis.gob.pe/index.php/es/nuestra-institucion/sobre-midis/por-que-existimos-2.

C. National institutions for the promotion of social inclusion and social integration

66. As noted in the previous report of the Secretary-General on promoting social integration through social inclusion (A/68/169), the effective implementation of social inclusion policies is dependent, to a significant extent, on a well-functioning network of government institutions in support of local authorities and community engagement. Such institutions are also critical to engaging the most excluded and ensuring that they have a voice.

67. At the national level, social integration strategies are an integral part of social policies and are carried out by entities within the ministries covering labour, social protection, youth, older persons and/or the family. In Romania, for example, the Ministry of Labour, the Family, Social Protection and the Elderly is currently finalizing a comprehensive strategy on social inclusion and combating poverty for the period 2015-2020.[21]

68. Advisory bodies are often tasked with developing and monitoring the implementation of national inclusion plans. In Romania, the National Commission on Social Inclusion of the Interministerial Council for Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection is responsible for identifying the national priorities to be incorporated in the action plan for social inclusion, selecting the indicators to be used for monitoring purposes and overseeing the reporting process.

69. In Peru, the Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion developed a National Strategy for Development and Social Inclusion; and the Intergovernmental Commission for Development and Social Inclusion was established to strengthen policy coordination.

70. In some countries, government-established bodies for the overall coordination of the national policy for the promotion, implementation and evaluation of social inclusion policies and programmes are linked to bodies concerned with equal opportunities and anti-discrimination. This is the case with regard to the Equal Opportunities, Anti-discrimination and Social Assistance Department of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy in Bulgaria.

71. In Saudi Arabia, national institutions for promoting social inclusion encompass the social development centres/civil committees tasked with supporting the national development plans, the Department of Community Development of the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Human Rights Commission, and the Council of Economic and Social Affairs. Additionally, the Al-Madinah Urban Observatory Network of the King Abdulaziz National Dialogue Centre, established in 2003, generates a host of quantitative and qualitative indicators on more than 23 urban areas, which allow for the monitoring of key dimensions of economic, social and human development such as education, health, employment and income as well as infrastructure, including roads, water, sewerage, and housing. The indicators are disaggregated by gender with monitoring extending to the lowest level of planning units. The Observatory promotes spatial equity to ensure equitable distribution of essential public goods and services as well as opportunities for economic investment

[21] The strategy focuses on key interventions in employment, social transfers, education, health, housing, social participation and strengthening of institutional capacity for poverty reduction and social inclusion.

and development. It also makes provision for affirmative action in the area of development planning at the provincial level, which includes favouring less developed regions. [22]

72. Recently, national dialogues on social issues have been established to engage citizens in several countries of the region of the Middle East and Northern Africa. Morocco's Commission on National Dialogue, established in 2013, includes representatives of civil society and Moroccans living abroad. It fosters discussion on the issues of empowering civil society and engaging the public in decision-making on public policy.

73. Jordan's Social Security Corporation has conducted a national dialogue on social security reform, in operation since 2006, with a wide range of national and local bodies and experts, as well as activists, trade unionists, members of civil society organizations and insured persons. They were able to evaluate the current system, highlight opportunities and challenges, and provide feedback and suggestions for reform.[23] The initiative won the International Social Security Association Good Practice Award. A national dialogue resulted in a bill passed by parliament in 2014.

IV. Initiatives of the United Nations system

74. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) promotes policy coherence at the global, national and subnational levels and assists Member States in the design of inclusive and equitable policies and regulatory frameworks which promote equal enjoyment of human rights in education, the sciences, culture, communication and information.[24] Building bridges between research, policy and practice, the UNESCO Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme promotes the transfer of relevant social sciences research findings and data to decision makers and other stakeholders, thus promoting evidence-based policymaking, nationally, regionally and internationally.[25] Within the programme, UNESCO facilitates regular gatherings of ministers for social development.

75. Within the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), participation is viewed as being part of a human rights-based approach to development. Based on international human rights standards, the approach focuses on various forms of inequality and exclusion in the political, economic and social spheres. The human rights-based approach to development both analyses the discriminatory practices, unjust power relations and processes that exacerbate the problem of exclusion and

[22] See ESCWA, "Participation and social protection in the Arab region", p. 17. See footnote 7.

[23] International Social Security Association, "National dialogue: an approach to reform social security is lot more than a line in budget, it is involvement of all", a case of the Social Security Corporation, Good Practices in Social Security, 2009.

[24] UNESCO, "Social inclusion, social transformations, social innovation: what role for UNESCO in 2014-2021?", consultations of the Director-General with member States, 23 November 2012. Available from http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/BPI/EPA/images/media_services/Director-General/ConceptNoteSocialInclusionSocialTransformationsSocialInnovationEN.pdf.

[25] See http://www.unesco.org/new/en/social-and-human-sciences/themes/most-programme/about-most/.

focuses on groups subjected to discrimination, disadvantages and exclusion (such as children, minorities and women). The human rights-based approach underscores the need for participation at every stage of the programming process, particularly of those who are disadvantaged, and underlines the responsibility of the State and its institutions with regard to respecting, protecting and fulfilling human rights within its jurisdiction.[26]

76. Enhancing the political participation of youth has been the focus of the UNDP good practice guide.[27] The guide recommends practical policy changes designed to increase democratic participation of youth, such as aligning the minimum voting age with the minimum age of eligibility to run for office, and introducing youth and women's quotas in electoral laws. The guide also recommends to international organizations and civil society organizations that they encourage continuous youth participation and civic education in schools and universities; support youth-led community development and volunteering organizations; provide flexible support to innovative, small-scale youth projects; bridge the digital divide; and use online platforms for knowledge sharing and networking. Parliaments, Governments and advocacy-oriented civil society organizations can ensure youth involvement in voter education campaigns, with multimedia strategies, facilitate youth-led national youth councils, and initiate and support youth councils at local levels.

77. The World Bank, which emphasizes inclusion in markets, services and spaces, defines social inclusion as encompassing the process of improving the terms under which individuals and groups take part in society and that of improving the ability, opportunity and dignity of people who are disadvantaged on the basis of their identity with respect to their taking part.[28]

78. Increasingly, social and economic inclusion forms part of the World Bank's activities in the region of Northern Africa and the Middle East as well as of its strategy for South Asia, with a focus on improved governance and gender equality informing its work across the region. Enhancing social inclusion means improving access to, and the quality of, public services, building social cohesion, and tackling the most difficult forms of exclusion and deprivation.[29]

79. The World Bank recognizes citizen engagement as key to improving development outcomes. The aim of its recent citizen engagement initiative is to achieve full beneficiary feedback in World Bank projects. The World Bank also encourages client countries to incorporate citizen engagement mechanisms in country policies and processes. Through mediation by the Global Partnership for Social Accountability, 39 countries have agreed to the monitoring of their performance by civil society.[29]

80. The World Bank recognizes the importance of community-driven development, which gives community groups control over planning decisions and

[26] UNDP, Regional Bureau for Europe and CIS, *Regional Human Development Report: Beyond Transition — Towards Inclusive Societies*. (Bratislava, 2011). Available from http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/regional/europethecis/RBEC_HDR_2011_EN.pdf.

[27] UNDP, "Enhancing youth political participation throughout the electoral cycle: a good practice guide" (New York, January 2013). The full guide is available from http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/democratic-governance/electoral_systemsandprocesses/enhancing-youth-political-participation-throughout-the-electoral/.html.

[28] See World Bank, *Inclusion Matters*. See footnote 1.

[29] See World Bank, *Annual Report 2014* (Washington, D.C., 2014).

investment resources for local development projects. Well-implemented community-driven development programmes tend to improve service delivery in health and education, and resource sustainability, and help communities build lower-cost and better-quality infrastructure. As they mostly target the poor and vulnerable, these programmes can help bring the voice of such groups to the policy table.[30]

81. For the World Health Organization (WHO), the concept of social exclusion provides a unique framework for understanding the social determinants of health inequalities and for developing more appropriate and effective action to address them.[31] Although the meanings of the term "social exclusion" are diverse, exclusionary processes are similar and lead to inequalities in human dignity, human rights and human health.

82. Over the past several years, WHO has contributed to incorporating the discourse on social determinants of health and health equity linked to social inclusion in the overall development agenda. The social determinants of health are:

> (C)onditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age. These circumstances are shaped by the distribution of money, power and resources at global, national and local levels. The social determinants of health are mostly responsible for health inequities — the unfair and avoidable differences in health status seen within and between countries.[32]

83. In the Rio Political Declaration on Social Determinantys of Health, adopted on 21 October 2011 at the World Conference on Social Determinants of Health, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 19 to 21 October 2011, Heads of Government, ministers and government representatives underscored that there were five key action areas critical to addressing health inequities, including improving governance for health and development, improving participation in policymaking and implementation, reducing health inequities and monitoring progress and increasing accountability (para. 10).[33] The WHO *Social Determinants of Health Sectoral Briefing Series* provides information on diverse policy approaches and their health impacts and focuses on areas for potential collaboration. The Series encourages a systematic dialogue and better collaboration with other areas of governance.

84. Governments have demonstrated interest in promoting equity in health policies. However, despite some efforts, health inequities are on the rise among some populations. The recent review of the literature on social determinants of health/health equity policy points to the fact that the discourse "appears to be focused on advocacy rather than analysis and that the use of policy analysis theory is extremely limited".[34]

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[30] See World Bank, *Inclusion Matters*.

[31] WHO Social Exclusion Knowledge Network, "Understanding and tackling social exclusion: final report to the WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health from the Social Exclusion Knowledge Network" (February 2008), p. 185. Available from http://www.who.int/social_determinants/knowledge_networks/final_reports/sekn_final%20report_042008.pdf.

[32] See http://www.who.int/social_determinants/sdh_definition/en/.

[33] The Rio Political Declaration was endorsed by the sixty-fifth World Health Assembly on 26 May 2012 in para. 1 of its resolution WHA65.8 (see WHO, *Sixty-fifth World Health Assembly Geneva, 21-26 May 2012, Resolutions and Decisions, Annexes* (WHA65/2012/REC/1). Available from http://www.who.int/sdhconference/declaration/Rio_political_declaration.pdf.

[34] Mark G. Embrett and G. E. Randall, "Social determinants of health and health equity policy research: exploring the use, misuse, and non-use of policy analysis theory", *Social Science and Medicine*, vol. 108, issue C (2014), pp. 147-155.

85. WHO regional offices have been actively engaged in work on social determinants of health, with some establishing programmes on health determinants and risk factors in response to key public-health priorities.[35] Using the conceptual framework created by the Commission on Social Determinants of Health, the review conducted by the Regional Office for Europe of the social determinants of health identified new evidence and recommended actions for the promotion of health and reduction of health inequities which were incorporated into Health 2020, the new European policy framework for health and well-being.[36] This "whole-of-government" framework is grounded in the intersectoral coordination of health policies with policies and programmes that affect health outside the health sector.

86. A recent regional analysis of health policies in Latin America notes that the introduction of universal health coverage to improve health and its determinants was based on integrated public policies seeking to develop health systems that incorporate multisectoral intervention. Health programmes reinforced by intersectoral action and social participation have attempted to address social determinants of health, improve health outcomes and reduce health inequities. The success of those policies can be attributed to the investment in managerial and political capacity and strong political and managerial commitment.[37]

V. Conclusions and recommendations

A. Conclusions

87. **In inclusive societies, all individuals and groups are empowered to fully participate in the political, social and economic life of their communities and nations. To create such societies, it is essential to combat inequalities, through legal and structural reforms, and implement a variety of policies promoting civic participation, economic opportunities, access to services and social protection for all. It is also crucial to create institutions and structures that are conducive to the effective engagement of individuals and communities and that hold Governments accountable.**

88. **The review of recent policy development in social integration provided in this report points to the fact that social integration efforts must be based on the promotion of economic, social, civil and political rights of individuals and groups. Thus, ensuring access to basic services with equity, accessibility, availability and quality is a priority for many countries where socioeconomic inclusion programmes aim at eliminating structural causes of poverty, inequality and exclusion.**

[35] See the report dated 23 November 2012 by the Secretariat, entitled "Social determinants of health", to the WHO Executive Board at its 132nd session (EB132/14). Available from http://www.who.int/social_determinants/B_132_14-en.pdf?ua=1.

[36] Ibid., para. 6.

[37] See Luiz Odorico Monteiro de Andrade and others, "Social determinants of health, universal health coverage, and sustainable development: case studies from Latin American countries", *Lancet*, vol. 385, No. 9975 (4 April 2015). Published online 15 October 2014. Doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(14)61494-X. Available from http://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736(14)61494-X.pdf.

89. Access to employment and decent work represents the surest path towards economic and social integration. Thus, improving the employability of individuals through quality education and vocational training is often seen as the best means of advancing inclusion and full participation in economic life.

90. Universal or targeted social protection is increasingly viewed as central to poverty reduction and social inclusion and has become part and parcel of broader social policy design. There is also a growing recognition that the very formulation of social policies requires broad-based participation. In this context, the full range of lay and professional knowledge available through community involvement can be utilized to inform policy and action and ensure appropriate, acceptable and effective initiatives.

91. Importantly, some Governments have elaborated national plans and programmes for social inclusion and have implemented or have continued to implement, with some success, a series of interventions addressed to different target groups. Examples of good practice provided in this report aim to encourage Member States to pursue nationally appropriate policies and programmes. It is clear that social inclusion of vulnerable individuals and groups requires giving them voice and understanding their situation, which form the basis of the effective participation that is indispensable for social integration.

92. Despite some positive initiatives, however, major challenges to social inclusion remain. The persistence of discriminatory frameworks at community level, such as the caste system, points to the limits of national anti-discriminatory legislation. The continued exclusion of Roma people in Europe illustrates the difficulty inherent in building social inclusion at community level. A further challenge to social inclusion worldwide is the continuous flow of undocumented migrants and refugees who are fleeing widespread poverty and the lack of economic opportunities as well as persisting conflicts.

93. Member States have acknowledged that social integration policies and programmes are crucial for advancing social development objectives and find them relevant to their overall development efforts. Initiatives focusing on social inclusion of individuals and groups are vital to ending poverty and disempowerment and achieving other sustainable development goals. As such, they merit incorporation in the post-2015 development agenda.

B. Recommendations

Advancing inclusive societies as part of the post-2015 development agenda requires political will and concerted actions of Governments at all levels

94. Governments are urged to ensure inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making processes at all levels.

95. Governments should review all existing legal frameworks with a view to removing all discriminatory provisions so as to reduce inequalities.

96. Governments are encouraged to consider the creation and/or strengthening of national institutions for promoting social inclusion

mechanisms at national and local levels in order to ensure that nobody is left behind.

97. **Governments are encouraged to continue sharing their experience in respect of practical initiatives at national level designed to promote economic, civil and political participation and anti-discrimination and other measures for advancing social integration.**

98. **Governments may consider a systematic exchange of good practices in social integration at regional and international levels so that policymakers and other stakeholders can apply them to their national circumstances and step up progress towards achieving a "society for all".**

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General Assembly

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Seventieth session
Item 29 (b) of the provisional agenda*
Advancement of women: implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

Measures taken and progress achieved in follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 69/151 and aims to support the Assembly in monitoring the implementation of guidance provided in that resolution. It focuses on the extent to which selected intergovernmental processes of the United Nations integrate gender perspectives into their work. It provides a quantitative and qualitative assessment of progress achieved and remaining gaps, in comparison to previous years. It also demonstrates the significant expansion of the work of the United Nations Entity on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in support of normative intergovernmental processes. The report concludes with recommendations for further measures to enhance the implementation of gender equality mandates.

* A/70/150.

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I. Introduction

1. In its annual resolution on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, the most recent of which was resolution 69/151, the Assembly has consistently called upon the bodies of the United Nations system to increase efforts to fully mainstream a gender perspective into all issues under their consideration and within their mandates. The present report is prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 69/151.

II. Integration of a gender perspective into the work of selected intergovernmental bodies

2. The present report is based on an analysis of the content of the reports of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly at that session, as well as the reports of the Secretary-General to the 2014 sessions of the Economic and Social Council[1] and its functional commissions. Resolutions adopted by the Council and its functional commissions in 2014 were also analysed. The documents examined were those that were available in the Official Document System of the United Nations as at 10 June 2015. Where documents were submitted to more than one intergovernmental body, they were considered only once. The same methodology has now been used for five years; the analysis of trends therefore gives a solid picture of change over time.

A. Methodology

3. The documents reviewed for the present report were examined for evidence of the incorporation of a gender perspective, as determined by the presence of the following keywords: gender, sex, woman, man, girl, boy, female, male, sexual, reproductive and maternal (including their plural forms). Documents with at least one occurrence of a keyword were considered to have included a gender perspective. False positive results, for instance "man-made disaster" or "sexual exploitation" with no mention of the sex of the victims/survivors or of the perpetrators, were discounted.

4. The selected words are those most often found in reports and resolutions that address gender equality issues. In addition, documents that passed the first filter were analysed in more depth to assess the extent to which a gender perspective had indeed been reflected.

B. Quantitative findings

5. Intergovernmental bodies had many opportunities to incorporate gender perspectives into their work. In total, 283 reports of the Secretary-General were considered and 328 resolutions were adopted by the intergovernmental bodies

[1] In accordance with resolution 68/1, as of 2014, the Economic and Social Council adjusted its programme of work to a July-to-July cycle.

whose work was reviewed. The General Assembly alone considered 238 reports of the Secretary-General and adopted 280 resolutions at its sixty-ninth session.[2] As table 1 shows, the number of reports considered and resolutions adopted over the past five years has fluctuated somewhat, but has remained largely within the same range.

6. At its substantive session of 2014, the Economic and Social Council reviewed 12 reports of the Secretary-General and adopted 30 resolutions.[3] Table 1 indicates that the number of reports has decreased steadily since 2011 and while the number of resolutions adopted has fluctuated, it was noticeably lower in 2014 than in previous years.

7. The functional commissions, excluding the Commission on the Status of Women which focuses exclusively on gender equality issues, considered 33 reports of the Secretary-General and adopted 18 resolutions at their sessions in 2014. Table 1 shows that while the number of reports has generally fluctuated within a consistent range (with the exception of a sizeable increase in 2011), there was a substantial drop in the number of resolutions adopted by the functional commissions, from 31 in 2013 to 18 in 2014.

Table 1
Number of reports and resolutions, 2010-2014

	Reports					*Resolutions*				
Body	*2014*	*2013*	*2012*	*2011*	*2010*	*2014*	*2013*	*2012*	*2011*	*2010*
General Assembly	238	249	214	249	244	280	275	257	259	270
Economic and Social Council	12	15	17	24	20	30	43	37	40	38
Functional commissions	33	33	41	53	38	18	31	30	46	38
Total	**283**	**297**	**272**	**326**	**302**	**328**	**349**	**324**	**345**	**346**

8. A number of resolutions of the General Assembly had an exclusive focus on gender equality issues. Six such resolutions were adopted under agenda items or sub-items dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women, namely resolutions on the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development (69/236), intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls (69/147), efforts to end obstetric fistula (69/148), trafficking in women and girls (69/149), global efforts to eliminate female genital mutilations (69/150) and the annual resolution calling for the present report (69/151). In addition, resolutions on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control (69/61) and on child, early and forced marriage (69/156) also had an exclusive gender equality focus, but were adopted under other agenda items.

[2] As at 10 June 2015.

[3] During the 2014 cycle, the Secretary-General submitted eight reports to the Economic and Social Council, down from 15 in 2013. In order to maintain consistency with previous years, the present analysis also includes two notes by the Secretary-General (E/2014/53 and E/2014/93), one overview (E/2014/50) and one report (E/2014/70). These 12 documents are referred to as "reports of the Secretary-General".

9. The Economic and Social Council continued to adopt annual resolutions on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (2014/2) and on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women (2014/1).

10. While there had been a steady upward trend in the reflection of a gender perspective in the resolutions of the General Assembly, the percentage of such resolutions declined at the sixty-ninth session. Progress in the work of the Economic and Social Council and the functional commissions has remained inconsistent, as described below.

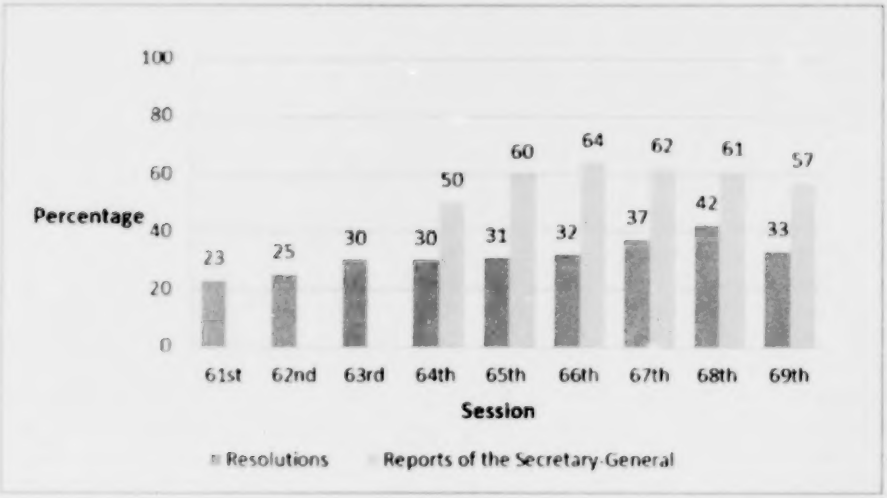
I. General Assembly

Reports of the Secretary-General

11. Reports of the Secretary-General support discussions that lead to the adoption of resolutions by intergovernmental bodies. Of the reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, 57 per cent included a gender perspective (see figure I and table 2). While this represents a slight decrease, of four percentage points, from the sixty-eighth session, gender equality issues continue to be addressed across a range of substantive areas.

Figure I

Trends in the share of General Assembly documents that include a gender perspective



12. The greatest increase in the percentage of reports containing a gender perspective, of five percentage points, occurred in those considered in plenary meetings, while there was a slight increase in the number of such reports submitted to the First (Disarmament and International Security), Second (Economic and Financial) and Fifth (Administrative and Budgetary) Committees (of 1, 1 and 3 percentage points respectively). The proportion of reports submitted to the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural), Fourth (Special Political and Decolonization) and Sixth (Legal) Committees containing a gender perspective decreased (by 19, 29 and 10 percentage points respectively).

Table 2
Number and percentage of reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly that include a gender perspective

Body to which report is allocated	*Total reports*	*Number including a gender perspective*	*Percentage including a gender perspective*
Plenary	37	32	86
First Committee	28	8	29
Second Committee	32	23	72
Third Committee	35	27	77
Fourth Committee	16	5	31
Fifth Committee	81	37	46
Sixth Committee	9	3	33
Total	**238**	**135**	**57**

Resolutions

13. A total of 33 per cent of the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its sixth-ninth session integrated a gender perspective. This constitutes a decrease of nine percentage points from the previous session and is attributable to fewer resolutions with a gender perspective adopted by the Assembly in plenary and the Second and Third Committees (see table 3 and figure II).

14. There were increases in the percentage of resolutions containing a gender perspective in the First and Sixth Committees, of 1 per cent each, from the sixty-eighth session. As in previous years, the Second and Third Committees, and the General Assembly in plenary, remained much more likely than the other Main Committees to integrate a gender perspective in their resolutions. Among resolutions adopted in plenary without reference to a Main Committee, the percentage dropped from 55 to 42 per cent. The Second Committee registered the most significant drop, of 22 percentage points, from 66 to 44 per cent. The number of Third Committee resolutions with a gender perspective decreased by 7 percentage points, from 68 to 61 per cent. This Committee remains the Main Committee with the highest percentage of such resolutions. There were also declines in the Fourth and Fifth Committees, of 2 and 7 percentage points, respectively, from 27 to 25, and from 15 to 8 per cent (see table 3 and figure II).

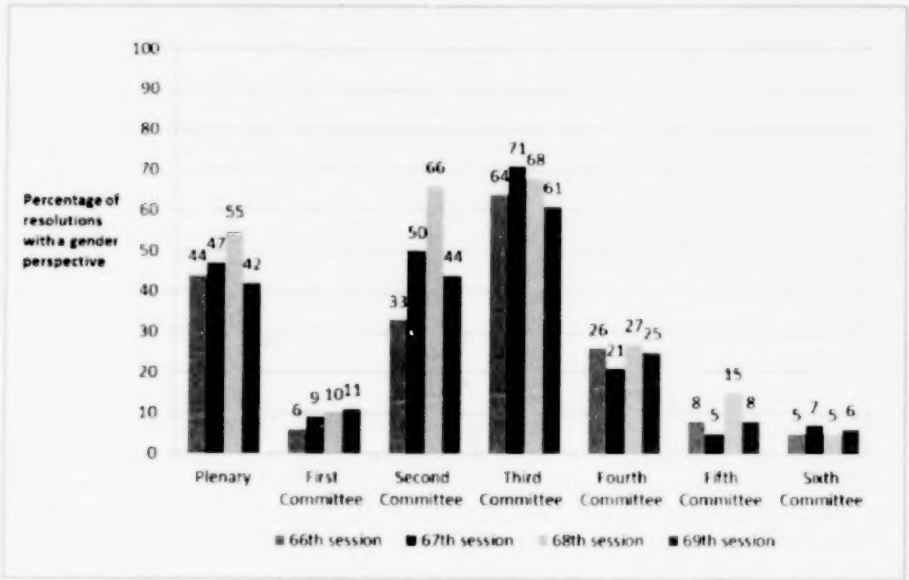
Table 3
Number and percentage of General Assembly resolutions that include a gender perspective

Originating body	*Total resolutions*	*Number including a gender perspective*	*Percentage including a gender perspective*
Plenary	55	23	42
First Committee	57	6	11
Second Committee	39	17	44
Third Committee	62	38	61
Fourth Committee	24	6	25

Originating body	*Total resolutions*	*Number including a gender perspective*	*Percentage including a gender perspective*
Fifth Committee	26	2	8
Sixth Committee	17	1	6
Total	**280**	**93**	**33**

Figure II

Trends in the share of resolutions of the General Assembly that include a gender perspective, by Main Committee



15. An examination of the contribution made by the Main Committees and the General Assembly in plenary to the pool of Assembly resolutions with a gender perspective (see figure III and table 4) confirms past trends. Although it was responsible for only 22 per cent of all resolutions adopted by the Assembly, the Third Committee contributed 41 per cent of all Assembly resolutions that included a gender perspective. The Second Committee accounted for 18 per cent, and the plenary for 25 per cent, of such resolutions. This means that any decrease in the number of resolutions with a gender perspective in these three bodies has a noticeable impact on the total percentage of resolutions reflecting a gender perspective. The First Committee, which accounted for 20 per cent of all Assembly resolutions, contributed only 6 per cent of the resolutions with a gender perspective. The Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Committees accounted, respectively, for 6, 2 and 1 per cent of such resolutions while contributing 9, 9 and 6 per cent, respectively, of all Assembly resolutions.

16. At the sixty-ninth session, the contribution by the Second and Third Committees of resolutions with a gender perspective dropped to 20 per cent, as compared with 27 per cent at the sixty-eighth session. They contributed more resolutions without a gender perspective at the sixty-ninth session, namely 16 per

cent, than at the sixty-eighth session, namely 13 per cent. The share of resolutions contributed by the Second and Third Committees to the total number of General Assembly resolutions declined from 41 per cent to 36 per cent of the total from the sixty-eighth to the sixty-ninth session. Since the Second and Third Committees together consistently contribute more than half of all resolutions with a gender perspective, the higher number of resolutions without a gender perspective from these two committees had an relatively greater impact overall on the results for the Assembly.

17. For example, references to gender issues in resolutions of the Second and Third Committees were dropped from two biennial and seven annual resolutions, constituting approximately 20 per cent of the resolutions without a gender perspective originating in the two committees. Of these resolutions, one biennial and six annual resolutions were substantive resolutions at the sixty-seventh and sixty-eighth sessions, respectively, but become procedural ones at the sixty-ninth session. In addition, 12 (26 per cent) of resolutions without a gender perspective were "new" resolutions (i.e. without a corresponding resolution in recent sessions), of which 7 were substantive texts.

18. Given the sizeable share of their contribution to the overall pool of resolutions, it will be necessary for the General Assembly in plenary and the Second and Third Committees to resume the steady upward trend in resolutions with a gender perspective. Greater efforts will also be needed by the Fourth and Fifth Committees, while the First and Sixth Committees should further consolidate their recent gains. Such progress would contribute to making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all spheres, so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated.

Figure III

Origin of all General Assembly resolutions that reflect a gender perspective

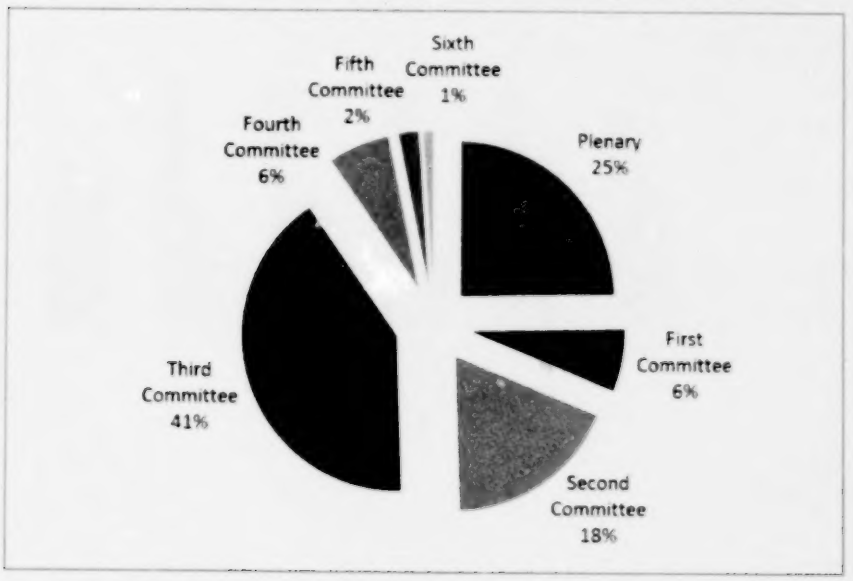


Table 4
Origin and percentage of all General Assembly resolutions that include a gender perspective

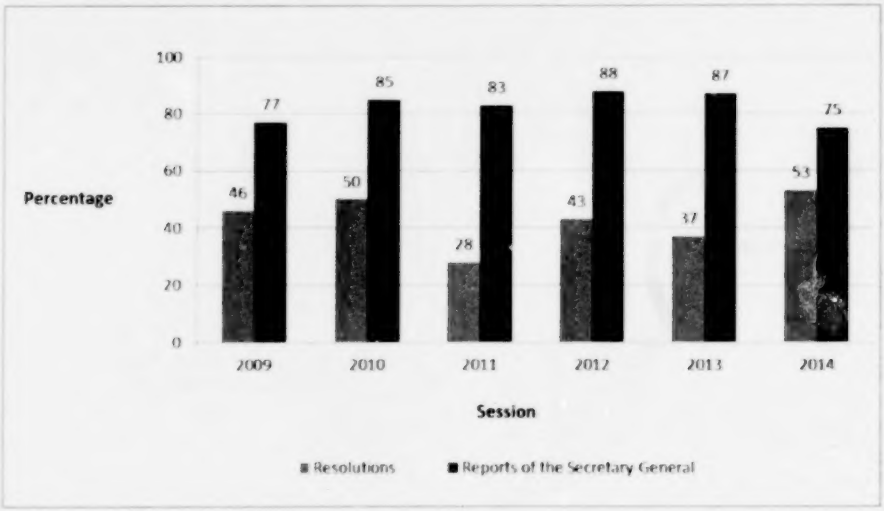
Originating body	*Percentage of all General Assembly resolutions*	*Percentage of all General Assembly resolutions with a gender perspective*
Plenary	20	25
First Committee	20	6
Second Committee	14	18
Third Committee	22	41
Fourth Committee	9	6
Fifth Committee	9	2
Sixth Committee	6	1

2. Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions

Reports of the Secretary-General

19. As is the case for the General Assembly, the reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the Economic and Social Council in 2014 were more likely than resolutions to include a gender perspective (see figure IV and table 5). Nine out of the 12 reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the Council in 2014 included a gender perspective.[4] This figure reflects a decrease of 12 percentage points from 2013.

Figure IV
Trends in the share of Economic and Social Council documents that include a gender perspective



[4] The majority of documents submitted to the Economic and Social Council originate either from subsidiary bodies or other entities of the United Nations system.

20. Of the total of 33 reports submitted by the Secretary-General to the functional commissions in 2014, 21 reports, or 64 per cent, reflected a gender perspective (see figure V and table 5), reflecting a decline of 11 percentage points from 2013 when 30 out of 40 (75 per cent) reports had such a perspective. Reports submitted to the Statistical Commission had the lowest percentage (27 per cent), followed by those submitted to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (50 per cent). On the other hand, all reports submitted to the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on Population and Development and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development consistently dealt with gender issues.

Figure V

Trends in the share of documents of the functional commissions that include a gender perspective

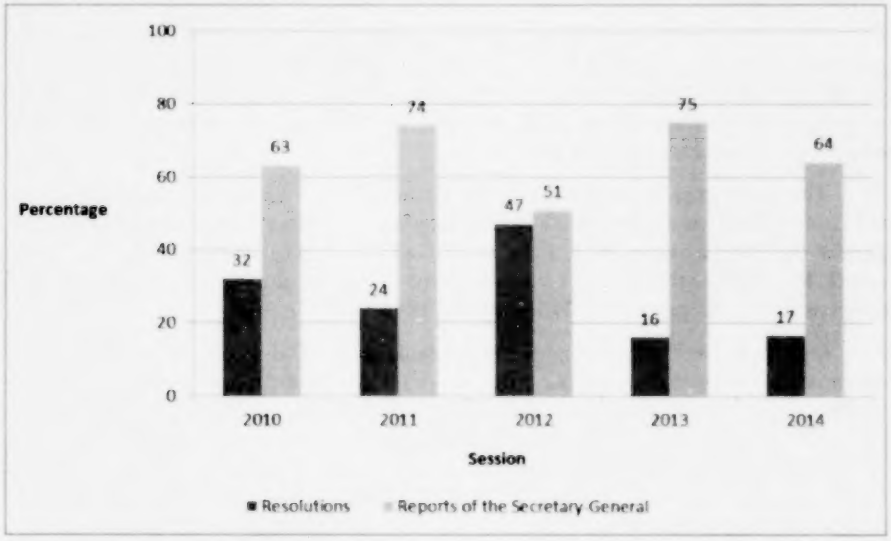


Table 5

Number and percentage of reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions in 2014 that include a gender perspective

Body to which report is submitted	*Total reports*	*Number including a gender perspective*	*Percentage including a gender perspective*
Economic and Social Council	12	9	75
Functional commissions of the Council[a]	33	21	64
Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice	8	6	75
Commission on Narcotic Drugs[a]	4	2	50
Commission on Science and Technology for Development	2	2	100
Statistical Commission	11	3	27

Body to which report is submitted	*Total reports*	*Number including a gender perspective*	*Percentage including a gender perspective*
Commission on Population and Development	3	3	100
Commission for Social Development	5	5	100
United Nations Forum on Forests[c]	–	–	–

[a] These results do not include the Commission on the Status of Women, owing to its exclusive focus on gender equality issues.

[b] The Commission on Narcotic Drugs considered reports of the Secretariat, which were included in the analysis.

[c] The United Nations Forum on Forests meets biennially. It did not meet in 2014.

Resolutions

21. The Economic and Social Council adopted 30 resolutions during its substantive session of 2014 (see table 6).[5] A gender perspective was reflected in 53 per cent of these resolutions (see figure IV and table 6), reflecting an increase of a strong 16 percentage points compared with the 2013 session, when 37 per cent of resolutions integrated a gender perspective.

22. The functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council (excluding the Commission on the Status of Women) registered a slight increase in attention to gender equality issues in 2014, from 16 per cent in 2013 to 17 per cent in 2014 (see figure V). This statistical gain was achieved owing to the number of resolutions adopted having dropped from 31 in 2013 to 18 in 2014.

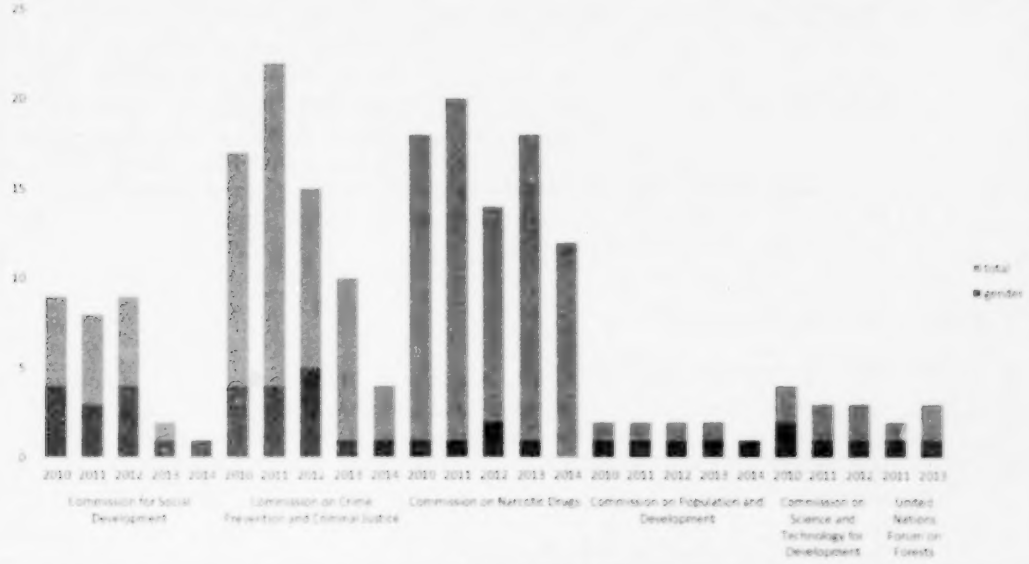
23. Figure VI and table 6 provide a breakdown of resolutions by functional commission. As was the case in previous years, the low proportion of resolutions with a gender perspective for the functional commissions remains attributable to the very low proportion of such resolutions adopted by the Commissions on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and on Narcotic Drugs: 1 of the 4 resolutions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice integrated a gender perspective and none of the 12 resolutions[6] of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had such a perspective. As these two commissions contributed, once again, by far the largest number of resolutions to the pool of outputs produced by functional commissions (16 out of the total of 18 resolutions), the impact of their work on the overall results is significant. At the same time, the number of resolutions with a gender perspective adopted by the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on Population and Development has stayed the same. Excluding the Commissions on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and on Narcotic Drugs, attention to gender perspectives among functional commissions remained very strong.

[5] Draft resolutions from functional commissions for action by the Economic and Social Council or the General Assembly through the Council are counted once, under the body that formally adopted them.

[6] The Commission also adopted the joint ministerial statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, which included a gender perspective.

Figure VI

Trends in the share of resolutions of some functional commissions that include a gender perspective



Note: The United Nations Forum on Forests meets biennially. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development did not adopt any resolutions in 2013 or 2014.

Table 6

Number and percentage of resolutions of the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions that included a gender perspective in 2014

Originating body	*Total resolutions*	*Number including a gender perspective*	*Percentage including a gender perspective*
Economic and Social Council	30	16	53
Functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council[a]	18	3	17
Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice	4	1	25
Commission on Narcotic Drugs	12	0	0
Commission on Population and Development	1	1	100
Commission on Social Development	1	1	100
Commission on Science and Technology for Development	0	0	0
United Nations Forum on Forests[b]	–	–	–

[a] These results do not include the Commission on the Status of Women. The Statistical Commission traditionally only adopts decisions, which are not considered in the present analysis.

[b] The United Nations Forum on Forests meets biennially. It did not convene in 2014.

24. As in previous years, the work of the Commission on the Status of Women was not included in the analysis of content covered in this section, in order to avoid biasing the results. The Commission's results during 2014 strongly confirmed that it is the unchallenged leader at the global level on issues of gender equality and the empowerment of women. The agreed conclusions on the priority theme (E/2014/27, chap. I.A) constitute the only intergovernmental outcome that assesses the situation of women and girls in regard to each of the Millennium Development Goals, identifies constraints and provides policy recommendations to accelerate the achievement of the Goals for women and girls. Building on extensive national and regional preparations, in March 2015, the Commission undertook a comprehensive review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and linked its full, effective and accelerated implementation with the post-2015 development agenda.

C. In-depth analysis

25. The level of attention given to gender equality issues and the positioning of references to such issues within reports and resolutions provide an indication of the qualitative strength of the gender perspective reflected. In-depth analysis suggests that reports and resolutions often vary greatly in the level of attention they give to gender equality issues.

1. Positioning of references to gender issues

26. The position of references to gender issues within intergovernmental documents determines their prominence and could influence the likelihood of follow-up actions. The reports of the Secretary-General draw more attention to gender equality issues when such references are reflected not only in the body of the report but also in the conclusions and/or recommendations. The emphasis on gender equality issues in resolutions is stronger when those issues are referred to in the preambular as well as the operative parts and when a specific action or recommendation to address the issue at hand is included. Such an assessment was carried out for documents of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council only, to maintain comparability with previous findings.

27. Previous reports in this series examined whether keywords were located in the body and/or in the conclusions and recommendations of reports. The present report adjusts this methodology to account for the fact that, annually, a significant number of reports of the Secretary-General with a gender perspective do not typically contain a separate section on conclusions and/or recommendations. Such reports tend to be annual reports which may vary in content but which may include budgetary documents (for example, for peace-related missions, the report on the budget performance of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (A/69/593)) or reports on the status of conventions.[7] As these reports may contain references to gender equality throughout but lack a section on

[7] Other examples include the reports on the budget for the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (A/69/805), the report on follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on children (A/69/258) and the report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors concerning United Nations peacekeeping operations (A/69/781).

conclusions and/or recommendations, the previous grouping and rating system insufficiently accounted for the strength of the gender perspective; that strength cannot be determined by the position of references but rather by their coverage and quality. Therefore, an additional category for such reports has been included to more accurately reflect how gender issues are approached in all types of reports of the Secretary-General.[8] This will be further discussed in the following section.

28. An analysis of the positioning of relevant references in reports of the Secretary-General indicates that almost one third of the reports give only passing attention to gender equality issues (see figures VII and VIII). Of the reports with a gender perspective submitted to the General Assembly, 33 per cent contained relevant references in the body only, while 28 per cent included references in both the body and in the conclusions and/or recommendations. This represents an improvement over the previous session, as fewer reports had references in the body only (a decline of 13 percentage points) and reports that have references in both sections increased by 7 percentage points. Of the reports with a gender perspective submitted to the Economic and Social Council, 11 per cent contained references only in the body, a decrease of 20 percentage points, while 56 per cent included references in both the body and in the conclusions and/or recommendations, an increase in the latter of 26 percentage points.

29. Of the 93 resolutions with a gender perspective adopted by the General Assembly during the sixty-ninth session, 25 were categorized as having a high focus on gender equality issues.[9] Of these, 21 had explicit references to a corresponding report;[10] 81 per cent of the corresponding reports had references to gender issues not only in the body but also in the conclusions and/or recommendations. These figures suggest a strong correlation between gender issues in the conclusions and/or recommendations of reports and related language in the operative part of the corresponding resolutions.

30. The above findings confirm that despite progress in systematic attention to gender equality issues in reports, more efforts are needed by author departments to include a gender perspective in the policy recommendations that the Secretary-General submits to intergovernmental bodies. Such improvements could be accelerated by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council explicitly requesting that this information be included in reports to be submitted to them, especially in the conclusions and recommendations.

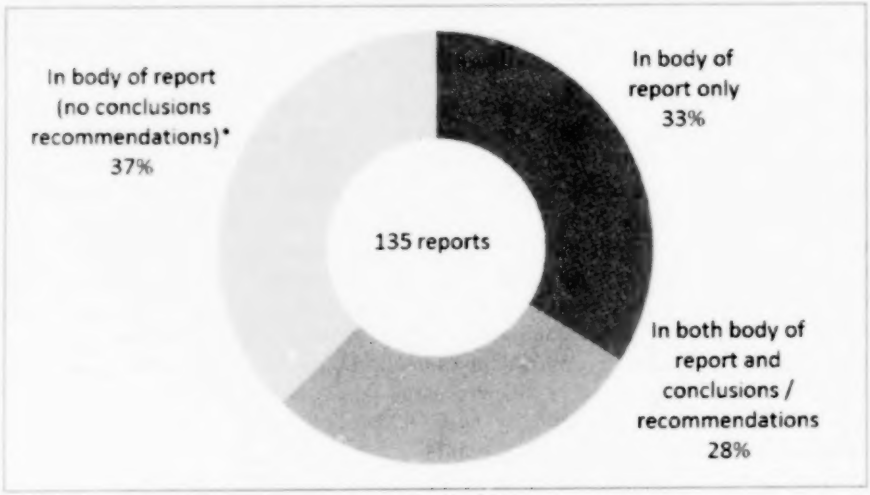
[8] In figures VII and VIII, this category is identified as "In body of report (no conclusions/recommendations)."

[9] See para. 33.

[10] For example, in para. 1 of resolution 69/236, the Assembly "*Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General [A/69/156]".

Figure VII

Position of references to gender issues in reports of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly

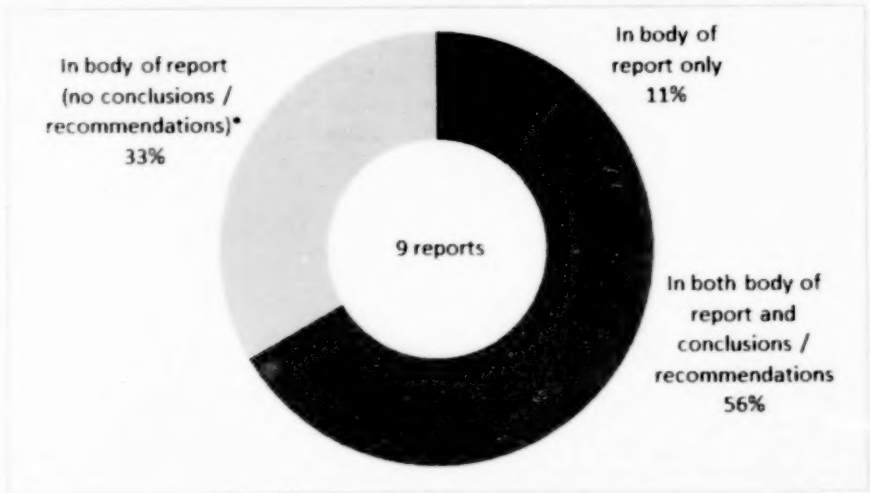

In body of report (no conclusions recommendations)* 37%
In body of report only 33%
135 reports
In both body of report and conclusions / recommendations 28%

Note: Of the 135 reports of the Secretary-General with a gender perspective that were submitted to the General Assembly, 2 reports (1.5 per cent) included references only in the section on conclusions and/or recommendations.

* Of the 135 reports of the Secretary-General with a gender perspective submitted to the General Assembly, 50 reports (37 per cent) did not include a section on conclusions and/or recommendations.

Figure VIII

Position of references to gender issues in reports of the Secretary-General to the Economic and Social Council


In body of report (no conclusions / recommendations)* 33%
In body of report only 11%
9 reports
In both body of report and conclusions / recommendations 56%

* Of the nine reports of the Secretary-General with a gender perspective submitted to the Economic and Social Council, five reports (53 per cent) did not include a section on conclusions and/or recommendations (see para. 27).

31. The analysis of the positioning of gender-related references in resolutions of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council revealed that such references were most likely to be found in both the preambular and operative parts of resolutions (see figures IX and X). The second most likely scenario was the inclusion of a gender perspective in the operative part only, with no reference to gender issues in the preambular part. Few resolutions integrated a gender perspective in the preambular part only. These findings are consistent with those of past years.

Figure IX
Position of references to gender issues in resolutions of the General Assembly

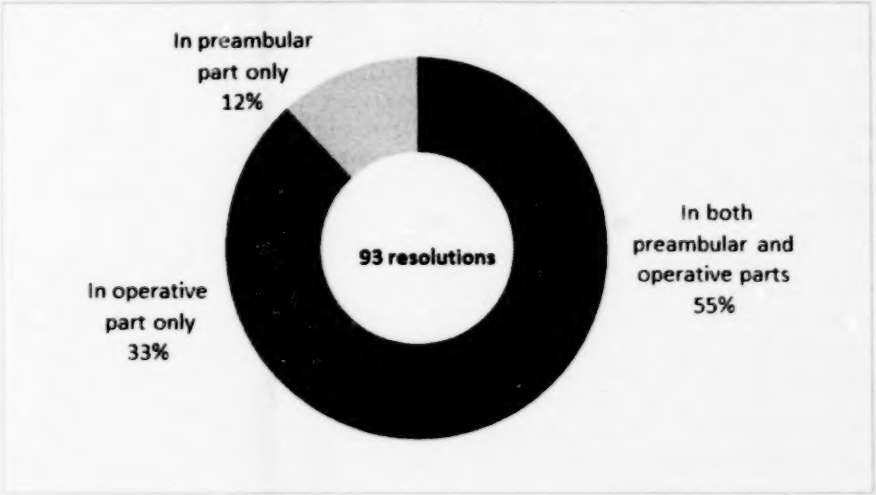
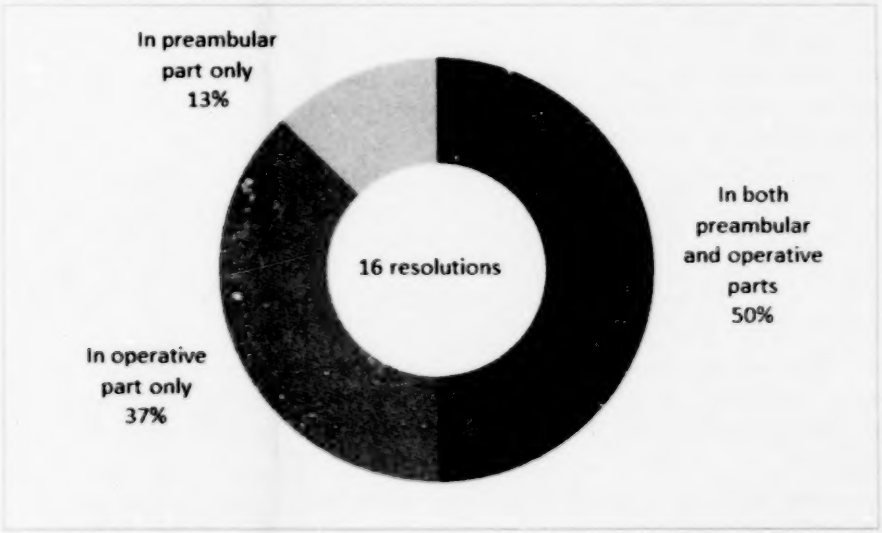


Figure X
Position of references to gender issues in resolutions of the Economic and Social Council



2. Qualitative assessment

Methodology

32. Although gender perspectives may be reflected in key sections of a report or resolution, their impact depends on the strength of the analysis and language used. To assess this strength, reports of the Secretary-General and resolutions were reviewed against two qualitative variables, namely the "coverage" of gender equality issues and the "quality" of the gender equality discussion.

33. Reports that included a specific section on gender equality issues as well as several references throughout the rest of the report were considered to have high coverage. A single reference or a few short references were defined as low coverage. Medium coverage fell somewhere in between. The quality analysis of reports characterized cursory references such as "including women" as low quality, while reports that provided precise facts and evidence, including quantitative data disaggregated by sex and/or gender analysis, ranged from medium to high quality. Assessing the quality of such reports is an important step towards differentiating perfunctory references to gender-related terminology from more attentive analysis of gender equality issues.

34. For example, the report on the budget for the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 (A/69/785) was considered to be of high quality as it specified the Mission's activities to assist the Government of Haiti in gender-related areas, including the improvement of the gender balance among Haitian police personnel, addressing the concerns of women in policy decisions and strengthening response and protection against sexual and gender-based violence; discussed technical assistance to the Ministry of Women's Affairs and women's rights and women's organizations; and included support for women's economic security.[11]

35. Another example of a document considered to be of high quality is the report of the Secretary-General on the achievement of the goal and objectives of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (A/69/271). The report highlighted the multiple discrimination that indigenous women face as women, as indigenous women and as poor women. The report also discusses progress in the adoption of targeted policies, programmes, projects and budgets for the development of indigenous peoples, including concrete benchmarks, with particular emphasis on indigenous women, children and youth, one of the objectives of the Decade's Programme of Action.

36. Resolutions were analysed against one variable only and categorized as having a low, medium or high focus on gender equality issues. Resolutions that included a single, passing reference were considered to have a low focus. Resolutions with a high focus on gender equality issues were identified by the occurrence of a keyword in more than one paragraph and/or by the inclusion of specific language on the situation and needs of women and girls and/or men and boys.

37. One example is General Assembly resolution 69/225 on the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, which contains references to gender perspectives in several paragraphs. In the preamble, the Assembly noted the initial two-year

[11] This report falls into the category of "in body only (no conclusions/recommendations)" as discussed in para. 27.

focus on energy for women, children and health of the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All. In two operative paragraphs, the Assembly called upon Governments to promote women's full, equal and effective participation and leadership in the design and implementation of energy policies and to mainstream a gender perspective into such policies (see resolution 69/225, para. 15), and to ensure women's full and equal access to and use of new, renewable and sustainable energy to enhance their economic empowerment, including employment and other income-generating opportunities (ibid., para. 16).

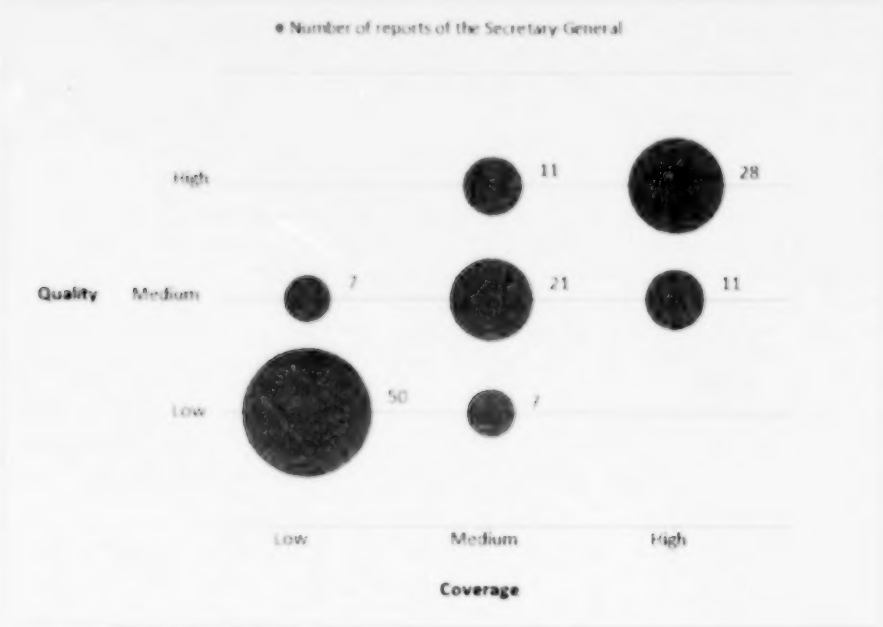
Reports of the Secretary-General

38. The distribution of the reports of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly across the two variables, coverage and quality, is illustrated in figure XI. The distribution of reports across the two axes demonstrates that reports varied widely both in the coverage of gender equality issues and in the characteristics of these inclusions. There tended to be a general correlation between coverage and quality: reports that devoted little space to gender equality issues were also likely to have only superficial references, while reports with extensive coverage tended to include more precise information and deeper analysis. As at the sixth-seventh and sixty-eighth sessions, there were more reports with low coverage and of low quality (50 out of 135 reports) than reports with high coverage and of high quality (28 out of 135 reports).

39. The percentage of reports rated as high/high, medium/high or high/medium increased to 37 per cent at the sixth-ninth session from 34 per cent at the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly. At the same time, the percentage of reports rated as low/low, medium/low and low/medium has remained the same, 47 per cent, as at the previous session, while the percentage of reports in the middle spectrum (medium/medium) has decreased from 19 per cent at the sixty-eighth session to 16 per cent at the sixty-ninth session.

Figure XI

Coverage and quality of gender equality references in reports of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly, by frequency



40. The strength of the gender perspective of the reports of the Secretary-General that do not have a separate section on conclusions and/or recommendations was assessed using the coverage and quality test. Of the 50 reports in this group, 36 per cent were rated as high/high, medium/high or high/medium, a decrease of 10 percentage points from the sixty-eighth session.[12] The percentage of reports rated low/low, medium/low or low/medium was 40 per cent, reflecting a decline of 8 percentage points from the previous session, while the percentage of reports in the middle range (medium/medium) increased from 6 per cent at the sixty-eighth session to 24 per cent at the sixty-ninth session. This analysis was not carried out for the corresponding reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the Economic and Social Council, as the sample size was too small for comparison.[13]

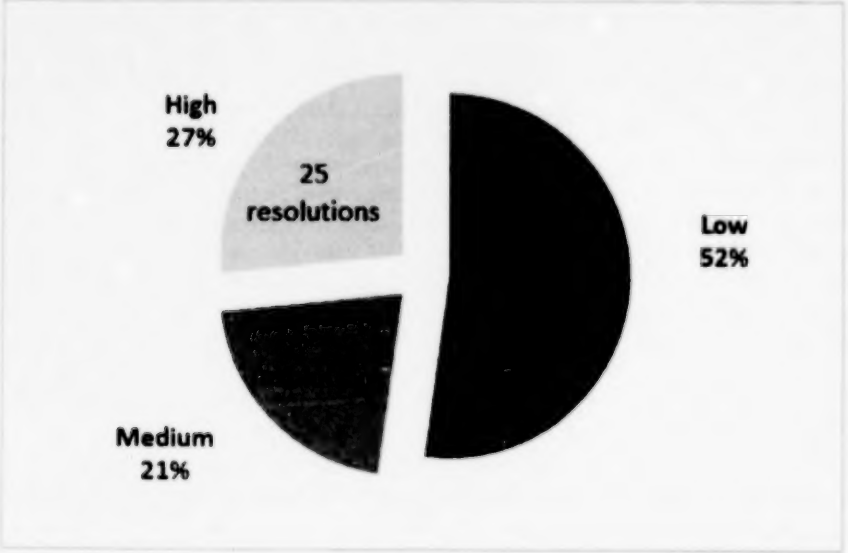
Resolutions

41. Of the 93 resolutions adopted by the General Assembly that include a gender perspective, 45 (48 per cent) show a high or medium focus on gender equality issues (see figure XII). This means that the keywords indicating a gender perspective were found in more than one paragraph and/or that there was specific language on the rights, situation and needs of, and opportunities for, women and girls and/or men and boys. In addition, resolutions rated high or medium often had keywords located in the operative part of the resolution, calling for a certain action.

[12] In order to create a basis for comparison, related data from 2013 were analysed applying the new methodology.

[13] In 2013, five such reports were submitted to the Economic and Social Council while in 2014, three such reports were submitted.

Figure XII
Extent of focus on gender equality issues in General Assembly resolutions that include a gender perspective



42. Analysis of the extent of the focus on gender equality issues in General Assembly resolutions that include a gender perspective shows that the percentage of low-quality resolutions increased from the sixty-seventh session while the percentage of medium- and high-rated resolutions decreased.

43. Resolutions addressed gender equality issues in different ways, including general calls to integrate a gender perspective into the area under consideration; recognition that women and girls may be in positions of greater vulnerability than men and boys; and recognition of gender equality both as a goal in itself and as a means of progressing towards the goals of the subject matter under consideration. Resolutions called for the full, equal and effective participation of women in decision-making in the subject area under consideration, for the empowerment of women and girls, including economic empowerment, and for addressing discrimination and violence against women and girls. There were also calls for action to ensure women's and girls' access to resources, support and services and for policies and/or programmes that are gender-sensitive, gender-responsive or that reflect a gender perspective. Some resolutions call for the collection of data disaggregated by sex and gender-specific information.

44. Many of the medium- and high-focus resolutions included paragraphs expressing recognition of the specific contribution and situation of women and girls and/or containing proposals for action to respond to their rights and needs. For example, in General Assembly resolution 69/177 on the right to food, the Assembly expressed its concern that women and girls are disproportionately affected by hunger, food and nutrition insecurity and poverty, in part as a result of gender inequality and discrimination; encouraged all States to take action to address gender inequality and discrimination against women; stressed the need to empower women and strengthen their role in decision-making; and encouraged relevant United

Nations bodies and mechanisms to continue integrating a gender perspective into their relevant policies, programmes and activities. Another example is resolution 69/204 on information and communications technologies for development, in which the Assembly acknowledged the importance of investing in closing the gender gap in information and communications technologies by making them affordable and accessible and affirmed the need to empower women and girls, in particular in developing countries, through the use of information and communications technologies in education, health care, agriculture, clean drinking water, energy and public services, to enable women entrepreneurs to access services, grow businesses and develop new innovations, to strengthen women's ability to access high-value-added jobs and to increase women's economic, civil and political participation. Resolution 69/270 on the cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie provides a high focus, as the Assembly noted the continued strengthening of cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie in the area of human rights and in the promotion of gender equality and recognized the need to promote the full participation of women and youth in conflict prevention, management and resolution mechanisms through their involvement in negotiation and peace agreement processes.

D. Factors accounting for the integration of a gender perspective into intergovernmental outcomes

45. More than one third of Economic and Social Council resolutions with a gender perspective had initially been drafted by functional commissions, including the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development. This confirms the critical importance of the work of functional commissions and it is hoped that the dialogue with functional commissions on gender mainstreaming, held by the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2015 and moderated by the President of the Council, will provide further impetus for the consistent attention being paid to gender perspectives in the Commissions' work (www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw59-2015/official-meetings#panel8).

46. The unexpected decline in the share of resolutions with a gender perspective adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, and especially the decline in the number of such resolutions adopted by the Second and Third Committees, may be partially attributable to the fact that several substantive resolutions of the Second Committee that had previously included gender perspectives were adopted as procedural resolutions without a gender perspective at the sixty-ninth session;[14] those resolutions were related to sustainable development and financing for development, matters that were under consideration in relevant intergovernmental processes. If the procedural resolutions are not counted, the drop in the number of resolutions containing a gender perspective adopted in the Second Committee from the sixty-eighth to the sixty-ninth sessions would be from 66 per cent to 53 per cent, rather than 44 per cent. This confirms past experience that procedural resolutions provide very limited opportunities for reflecting gender

[14] These were resolutions 69/205, 69/206, 69/208, 69/220, 69/230 and 69/240.

perspectives. It should be anticipated that both committees would revert to their usual attention to gender issues at the current session of the Assembly.

III. Integrating a gender perspective into intergovernmental processes: the contribution of UN-Women

47. The response of UN-Women to new and expanded guidance, requests and expectations from Member States for support of normative intergovernmental processes reached unprecedented levels (see E/CN.6/2015/2). Adequate capacity to provide such substantive support is of particular importance at a time when key global intergovernmental processes are setting the stage for a transformative, inclusive and integrated sustainable development agenda that must lead to the accelerated realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

48. UN-Women provided substantive support to the Commission on the Status of Women, the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly and the Security Council and also engaged with other intergovernmental processes to strengthen the integration of gender issues in their outcomes. The scope of this work has grown exponentially and, in many instances, extrabudgetary funding is used for implementing the normative support functions of UN-Women. This has led the Economic and Social Council to recognize the importance of strengthening the capacity of UN-Women, including through adequate funding, to carry out its mandates for normative support, coordination and operational functions (see Council resolution 2015/12).

49 The Commission on the Status of Women remained a key focus of UN-Women's normative support. Assistance with the preparations for the last two sessions of the Commission, including of the knowledge and evidence base, outreach and alliance-building as well as leadership, expert and technical support during the sessions, were instrumental in securing successful outcomes. UN-Women implemented comprehensive preparatory activities that mobilized Member States, the United Nations system, civil society and academic experts, including the convening of expert group meetings, a global stakeholders' forum, unprecedented numbers of regional consultations and regional intergovernmental meetings, and civil society consultations. These activities responded to relevant requests by the Economic and Social Council and the Commission and facilitated the strong call in the Commission's political declaration for the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, through six key strategies. Member States recognized the important role of UN-Women and called on the Entity to continue to support implementation (see E/2015/27). In separate action (Council resolution 2015/6), Member States affirmed that the Commission would also contribute to the follow-up to the post-2015 development agenda, to be adopted at the United Nations Summit in September 2015, so as to accelerate the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women. UN-Women will fully support the Commission in this effort.

50. The Entity also significantly expanded its normative support to the Economic and Social Council, which has been instrumental in galvanizing measurable progress by the United Nations system in the performance on gender mainstreaming through the use of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, under the leadership of UN-Women. The next stage of improvements will depend on the capacity of UN-Women to support

implementation, including through capacity-building, tracking and reporting. UN-Women also responded to the heightened expectations for gender equality inputs to the Council's new segment structure by engaging with the Council's Youth Forum, operational activities, integration and high-level segments. Moving forward, the Entity will seek to respond to requests for more systematic contributions to the Council's work and that of the high-level political forum on sustainable development meeting under the auspices of the Council so as to ensure accelerated and effective gender mainstreaming across the entire mandates of these bodies.

51. During the last three years, and especially during the reporting period, UN-Women responded vigorously to the imperative of ensuring that the post-2015 development agenda, the new financing for development framework and the climate agreement to be adopted in December 2015 result in irreversible gains for gender equality, the empowerment of women and the human rights of women and girls. Such a strengthened global normative framework is pivotal to secure concrete change in the lives of women and girls everywhere, especially as Member States have recognized that no country has achieved equality for women and girls. The Entity's engagement complied with expectations of Member States, as reflected in resolutions of the General Assembly in which the Assembly welcomed the leadership of UN-Women in providing a strong voice for women and girls at all levels (for example, resolutions 68/140 and A/69/151, in which the Assembly also urged Member States to increase funding for the budget of UN-Women).

52. Stepped-up support by UN-Women for the intergovernmental processes on the post-2015 development agenda and on financing for development was presented in key messages and general principles, backed up by analysis, data and evidence, on the linkages between the achievement of gender equality and sustainable development and the urgency for transformative financing to end gender inequality by 2030. UN-Women partnered with Member States, civil society and other stakeholders, which created opportunities for exchange of views, sharing of experiences and the reinforcement of support and consensus for a post-2015 development agenda that prioritizes gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. UN-Women advocated for a strong and comprehensive goal to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, with targets that address structural barriers to gender equality; the integration of gender perspectives throughout the entire framework, including through clear gender-specific targets; and the reflection of gender equality perspectives in all elements of the post-2015 development agenda: the declaration, goals and targets, means of implementation, global partnership and follow-up and review.

53. As the financing shortfall for gender equality had already been recognized and action to close the gap pledged by Member States at the Commission on the Status of Women (see the political declaration contained in document E/2015/27), UN-Women called for new and additional funding, from all sources, to achieve gender equality objectives. The approach of transformative financing for gender equality championed by the Entity is reflected in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, adopted by the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Addis Ababa from 13 to 16 July 2015, in which Member States, among others, agreed to ensure gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment (para. 1); reaffirmed that achieving gender equality, empowering all women and girls, and the full realization of their human rights are essential to achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development (para. 6); and agreed

to investments and transformative actions for the promotion of gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment at all levels, women's leadership and access to economic resources (paras. 6, 21 and 41, among others). UN-Women will work to support follow-up and implementation of these commitments.

54. UN-Women continued its extensive support and engagement with the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. This engagement is now at a critical juncture. Building on the progress of the past four years, most recently decision 18/CP.20 on the Lima work programme on gender, new demands have emerged for concrete tools to facilitate implementation of gender-sensitive climate policy and action and UN-Women is working closely with the Convention secretariat and other partners in an effort to comply with these expectations. Most importantly, parties to the Convention must now firmly anchor their commitment to gender equality in the new climate agreement to be reached at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in Paris in December 2015. UN-Women is working with parties and other stakeholders in the lead-up to the conference, in response to the growing demand for substantive and technical expertise to support the incorporation of gender perspectives in all the sections of the climate agreement. The Entity will convene stakeholders to share key messages and build strategic alliances with gender equality champions and advocates. These are opportunities that cannot be missed.

55. Demands for UN-Women's normative support function have also expanded in other areas, including in regard to women and peace and security. The 15-year review of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) provides the basis for a systematic assessment of gaps and challenges, lessons learned and good practices, which should lead to enhanced follow-up and implementation. The Entity's stepped-up contribution to humanitarian affairs, its contribution to the third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and its follow-up and the preparations for the World Humanitarian Summit and the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), to be held in 2016, are some of the other areas where systematic attention to gender equality and the empowerment of women requires normative support.

56. As the post-2015 context creates unprecedented opportunities for accelerated realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, expectations are high for UN-Women's leadership in helping to ensure that the commitments made translate into concrete action for women and girls. This brings with it substantive requirements for the Entity to support review, follow-up and implementation and to engage with all relevant intergovernmental forums and platforms at the global level to ensure that attention is focused on gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. In addition, UN-Women is working throughout the United Nations system towards ensuring that the system is ready to support Member States in their gender-sensitive and gender-responsive implementation of the new agenda at the national level.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

57. **Intergovernmental bodies have continued to reflect gender perspectives in their work. However, progress remains uneven in the different bodies. While the percentage of resolutions with a gender perspective adopted by the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions increased, that was not the case in the General Assembly. Even when resolutions do reflect gender issues, references often remain brief and are still too seldom reflected in some areas of work, in particular in resolutions dealing with disarmament and related international security questions, political issues and decolonization, administrative and budgetary matters, international legal matters, crime prevention and criminal justice and narcotic drugs. Procedural resolutions also rarely reflect gender perspectives. New and additional efforts are therefore needed to integrate gender equality considerations as a cross-cutting issue in all areas under discussion.**

58. **Reports of the Secretary-General to the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly that reflected a gender perspective had a stronger gender analysis than at the previous session, although the conclusions and recommendations of those reports did not systematically integrate a gender perspective. This is particularly important given the proven direct link between the inclusion of gender issues in the conclusions and recommendations of reports and the operative parts of corresponding resolutions.**

59. **UN-Women significantly expanded its normative support in response to demands from Member States and in an effort to ensure that ongoing intergovernmental processes of historic scope fully contribute to the achievement of gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls and the realization of their human rights by 2030. These efforts far exceed the resources currently allocated to the Entity for its normative support functions.**

60. **The General Assembly may wish:**

(a) **To reiterate its call upon all intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system to fully mainstream a gender perspective into all issues under their consideration and within their mandates;**

(b) **To call upon States to ensure that intergovernmental processes such as United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions and their follow-up processes consistently address gender perspectives in their preparatory processes and outcomes, and also call upon States to ensure that gender perspectives are reflected in the climate agreement to be adopted at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Paris in December 2015, and at Habitat III, to take place in Quito in October 2016;**

(c) **To urge the Economic and Social Council, and especially its functional commissions, to intensify efforts to integrate gender perspectives into their work, noting in particular the lack of progress by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs;**

(d) **To welcome the commitment to ensure gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment, gender mainstreaming, investments and transformative actions contained in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the**

Third International Conference on Financing for Development and those in the post-2015 development agenda to be adopted at the United Nations summit to adopt the post-2015 development agenda, to be held in September 2015, and urge that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are consistently addressed in all follow-up and review activities, at all levels and by all forums and platforms, especially the high-level political forum on sustainable development of the Economic and Social Council;

(e) To request that reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and their subsidiary bodies systematically address gender perspectives through the provision of data disaggregated by sex and age and gender analysis and that conclusions and recommendations for further action address the situation and needs of women, girls, men and boys, so as to facilitate gender-responsive policy development;

(f) To strengthen the capacity of UN-Women to fully implement its normative support function, provide policy analysis, knowledge and evidence in support of intergovernmental deliberations, continue to raise awareness about opportunities to mainstream a gender perspective into the work of intergovernmental bodies and processes and provide technical assistance, at the request of Member States, on strengthening the gender perspective in resolutions and other outcomes of intergovernmental bodies.